

**Submission to Minister for Roads, Hon Duncan Gay MP
Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce Inc.
Mr Lew Hird (Pres) email: agsol@iinet.net.au and
Mr Bill McCabe (V. Pres)**

RE: Request for the upgrade of the GWH west of Station St Wentworth Falls

The current upgrade of the GWH east of Station St (GHD Review of Environmental Factors 2006) did not address the issues of:

1. traffic and pedestrian safety at the intersection of Station St and the GWH
2. linkage between the residential areas of Wentworth Falls north and south of the Highway
3. local traffic movements and adequate separation from GWH traffic movements
4. five sets of traffic lights over approximately a 3Km section of the GWH between Tablelands Rd and Mitchell St Wentworth Falls. (see Appendix C)

Our submission seeks the following to address these issues by:

1. installation (as a short term solution) of a safety camera at the intersection of Station St and GWH at Wentworth Falls (see copy of letter to RTA attached) in view of traffic accident history of this intersection
2. installation of a pedestrian overpass between the intersection of Station St and GWH and Falls Rd and GWH for the following reasons:
 - a. the residential areas are split between the northern and southern sides of GWH (see appendix A)
 - b. SEPP 55 developments (26.8% of the population of Wentworth Falls is aged 60 years plus relative to the Sydney Region average of 16.2%) and Wentworth Falls Primary School are located on the southern side of the GWH. Residents require safe access to the village precinct and students residing on the northern side require safe access to the school. Blue Mountains Grammar students residing on the southern side require safe access to BMGS on the northern side.
(See Appendix B)
3. A feasibility study and cost benefit analysis for grade separation of the GWH west of Station St Wentworth Falls.
If implemented, this would have the benefit of separating local traffic and pedestrians from traffic on the GWH and would achieve the objectives associated with 1. & 2. above.

These requests are aligned with representations from BMCC and the community consultation in the GHD Review of Environmental Factors 2006 on pages 28, 33 40 and 41 attached.

It is noted that the GHD study did not include the GWH section west of Station St nor did it appear to include the Station St intersection and associated traffic accident history.

The Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce requests that these matters be urgently addressed by the RTA.

Further to the above, the Chamber also advises that the following issues require attention:

- Completion of the GWH upgrade by 2013 to coincide with the Bicentenary celebrations of the Crossings of the Blue Mountains by the explorers and the completion of Coxs Road in 2015
- Road signage from Sydney Airport directing tourists to the Blue Mountains via the M5, M7 and M4 ie the most direct route
- RTA representations together with NSW Tourism to the E Tag and EWay toll operators and hire car companies to put in place a system to facilitate the use of toll roads by overseas tourist similar to that in Europe where car hire companies install a tag in all hire cars suitable for the country of hire.

Photographs illustrate the area west of the Station Street intersection.



Crossing immediately west of Station Street with SEPP 55 development at rear of trees.



Pedestrian crossing looking west to Blue Mountains Grammar School and descent for traffic to accelerate to crest. Traffic lights in place at far crest.



Intersection looking east to crest. The current upgrade ceases to the east of this intersection. There have been in the order of six major traffic incidents at this intersection in the last five years.



Intersection looking north to Station Street and shopping precinct



Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce Inc

PO Box 51
WENTWORTH FALLS NSW 2782

Mrs Roza Sage
Member for Blue Mountains
Parliament House
Macquarie St.,
Sydney 2000

23rd August 2011

Dear Roza,

Re: Request for the installation of a road safety camera at the intersection of the Great Western Highway and Station Street, Wentworth Falls and other issues pertaining to GWH upgrade.

I wrote to the RTA and the then State Member on behalf of the Chamber to seek the installation of a safety camera at the above intersection. See attached letters and the letter dated 20th August 2011.

The request was based on the accident history and fatalities associated with this intersection and especially accidents involving heavy goods vehicles.

The upgrade of the GWH in this section will do little to avert the incidence of these accidents occurring in the future.

There has been another incident within the last two weeks at this intersection. The request is based on the fact that retirement homes are increasingly being constructed on the southern side of Wentworth Falls, the residents of which require access to the village on the northern side. Further, Wentworth falls primary school is located on the southern side requiring many children to cross at this intersection.

At the very least, the highway upgrade should have incorporated a pedestrian overhead bridge at this intersection however, this is not part of the upgrade.

Would you please make representation to the RTA concerning the installation of a safety camera at this intersect to deter speeding of HGV and others as they descend from the western approach to this intersection in the first stance. Secondly, please make representation to the RTA for the installation of an overhead pedestrian bridge at this intersection and for the RTA to liaise with the Chamber as per the letter dated 20th Aug 2011.

Thank you for your assistance in these matters.
Yours faithfully,

Lew Hird, President



Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce Inc

PO Box 51
WENTWORTH FALLS NSW 2782

20 August 2011
Ian Allan
Project Services Manager
Roads and Traffic Authority
PO Box 973
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Ian,

Re: GWH Upgrading Wentworth Falls – Landscaping at Village Centre and Traffic Management of the Station Street/ Falls Road Precinct.

Please find attached a letter forwarded to you on the 7 July for which we do not seem to have a reply. The Chamber at its August meeting requested that I make further representations to you to have the matter considered and if possible have a representative from the RTA meet with the Chamber at Wentworth Falls

The Chamber has also requested that a process be instigated to achieve a superior solution to the traffic management infrastructure at the Station Street/ Falls Road precinct. The existing pedestrian and local vehicle access facilities are dangerous and inadequate and are totally inconsistent with the grade separation solution provided at Leura. It is our view that the cross traffic movements at the above intersections probably equal or even exceed those at Leura and grade separation should be provided for vehicles and pedestrians.

To this end we would like to be involved in a planning team to resolve the obvious problems and will be forwarding a copy of this letter to the Local Member Roza Sage to assist with the instigation of this planning process.

Yours faithfully

Lew Hird, President Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce Inc.
cc Roza Sage Member for Blue Mountains