



camden council fact sheet

Richardson Road and Elyard Street, Narellan Traffic and Springs Road Closure

Springs Road

Q. Why is Springs Road closed?

A. With the mining of sand which has taken place over the years in the Spring Farm area, the existing land levels are much lower than the current level of Springs Road. However, the land is to be developed for housing, schools and recreation areas, but this will require lowering of the level of Springs Road.

Q. What is happening in Springs Road?

A. Springs Road has therefore been closed so that construction of a new road and bridge over Springs Creek can be constructed. Springs Road will be lowered by up to 8 metres in places in order to align with the new residential areas being developed adjacent to the road. This lowering requires substantial excavation of materials in order to form the new road alignment, and requires the road to be closed due to the extent of the lowering work.

Q. How long will the road be closed?

A. The project is currently estimated to be completed by October 2011.

Q. The original plans and signs indicated that Springs Road would be re-opened by end July 2011. Why is it now taking longer?

A. The project has required the temporary relocation of high voltage electricity transmission lines from along Springs Road into other property about 200 metres away. The location of some of the temporary power poles and the switching of power to the temporary route were delayed and needed to be worked through with Integral Energy to ensure both safety and minimal disruption of electricity supply to the surrounding area.

Q. Is the ground under the old road being mined?

A. Yes. It has been a longstanding requirement of the State Government that the sand under the road be mined as it is a valuable building material. Council is required to facilitate the mining of the sand.

Q. It has been suggested Council is making money out of the mining of the sand. Is this true?

A. Council is receiving a royalty payment from the sand miners for this sand. The full amount of the royalty is being used to help offset a small part of the cost of the road lowering and reconstruction. The value of this royalty represents around 5% of the total cost of the lowering and reconstruction of Springs Road.

Q. Will the road be improved when it is finally reopened?

A. Yes. The new road will be just that – a new road and new bridge across Springs Creek. Part of the road (the eastern end) will be upgraded to an urban standard, with the upgrade cost funded by developers.

Q. Are there plans available for the housing development adjacent to Springs Road?

A. Yes. These are available on request from Council's Customer Service areas at either Camden or Narellan.

Q. Will there be any load limit on Springs Road when it reopens?

A. No. Springs Road will be available for use by heavy vehicles, including B-Double vehicles.

Richardson Road and Elyard Street

Q. Why is there so much extra traffic, especially heavy vehicle (truck) traffic along Richardson Road and Elyard Street?

A. The closure of Springs Road has resulted in traffic using Richardson Road and Elyard Street as the access to Jack's Gully Waste Management facility and the Glenlee Industrial area. These roads are the only effective route for heavy vehicles from Camden Valley Way to these areas. The percentage increase in vehicle numbers is not large but the increase in heavy vehicles is more noticeable, particularly in the mornings.

Q. Why were the residents not advised of the plans to close and mine Springs Road?

A. Residents along Richardson Road were advised in early 2010 of plans to close Springs Road for a period of more than 12 months, and that Richardson Road would be used as a temporary B-Double route during this time.

Signs indicating the closure of Springs Road had been in place for some years. It is only in recent times that the necessary agreements were able to be concluded that allow the reconstruction work to take place.

Q. Waterworth Drive and Welling Drive have a 10 tonne load limit placed on the use of those roads. Why isn't the same limit applied to Richardson Road, or alternatively, the weight limit lifted on Waterworth Drive and/or Welling Drive?

A. Waterworth Drive and Welling Drive are far less direct route and were not constructed to handle significant numbers of heavy vehicles. Both roads have large schools adjacent where conflict between heavy vehicles and pedestrians should be avoided. Also, the winding alignment of these roads is less suited to heavy vehicles than Richardson Road. As a result, it is not appropriate to lift the load limit on Waterworth Drive and Welling Drive.

Placing a load limit on Richardson Road and/or Elyard Street would prevent heavy vehicles from legitimately using these roads to access commercial and industrial premises. Accordingly, a load limit will not be placed on these roads.

Q. Will Richardson Road still be used for the heavy vehicles to access Jacks Gully (WSN) and the other businesses in the Glenlee area after the reopening of Springs Road?

A. Richardson Road will be subject to the previous conditions once Springs Road reopens. This means that the temporary B-Double Route along Richardson

Road will be cancelled and the route along Springs Road reinstated. However, most heavy vehicles will still be able to use Richardson road as they are not subject to any specific restrictions under the Road Rules.

Q. What is council doing about limiting traffic and noise?

A. Council is limited in the actions it can take which would be effective in reducing traffic and noise. Most vehicles using Richardson Road are not subject any restrictions in normal circumstances.

Council has made some modifications to Richardson Road to assist heavy vehicles get through the area more easily, noise limitation signs have been placed along the road and some repair of the road surface has been undertaken where dips etc cause unnecessary bumps. Council has also written to the businesses operating in the Glenlee area asking their co-operation in minimising both truck movements, times of operation and use of compression brakes.

Council recognises that these works do have an impact on residents and is taking every measure possible to minimise the duration of the works.

Q. Who can I contact about these issues?

A. Should further information in relation to the proposed work at Springs Road be required, please contact Pat Mulqueeney on 4645 5093 directly. For any further information in relation to traffic management issues on Richardson Rd please contact Calum Hutcheson on 4645 5011.