

Capital Works Interactive Map and Updates

Jeanette Williams¹ and Jay Spare²

¹ Unit Manager Roads Business Development and Technical Service, Central Coast Council, New South Wales, Australia

² Unit Manager Road Assets, Planning and Design, Central Coast Council, New South Wales, Australia

ABSTRACT: Every year, Council invests over \$160 million in improving road, transport and drainage infrastructure throughout the Central Coast region. These works are planned in advance through Council's Delivery Program and are identified in more detail in Council's annual Operational Plan. Through all forms of community engagement, roads and drainage are always a top priority. Our community is passionate about connecting the Central Coast through a quality network of roads, footpaths and shared pathways. Council shares that passion which will see Council in 2019/20 deliver more than 570 projects at an investment of almost \$75 million. With this importance placed on our infrastructure, Council wanted to ensure the community was kept up to date and had the ability to easily see what projects were planned and where the funds were being spent. Council has developed an interactive map to help local residents see what road, transport and drainage capitals works are planned in their neighbourhood. The map features details on each project such as the project scope, description, a timeline for commencement and completion, and a monthly update on the progress. Significant projects also have concept and design plans available as well as photos. This project has been part of a continued effort by Council to keep the community informed and engaged about what is happening across the local government area.

KEYWORDS: capital works, community consultation, asset management, resident update, website, notification, interactive map.

1 Introduction

In May 2016 Central Coast Council was formed, with the amalgamation of the former Gosford City and Wyong Shire. The amalgamation saw the coming together of a Capital Works Program worth over \$70million and over 570 projects for Roads, Transport and Drainage. We have significant buying power as one Council, representing one region.

One of the priorities for the new Central Coast Council, was to build a solid foundation and focus on ensuring we deliver the infrastructure that the residents of the Coast need, want and value.

With this importance placed on our infrastructure, we wanted to ensure our community was kept up to date and had the ability to easily see what projects were planned and where the funds are being spent.

The development of an interactive map was identified and determined the best way forward to achieve an online tool providing information on what capital road and drainage projects were being carried out. The objective of the

interactive map project was to provide our local community with an easy to use information tool on capital works road and drainage projects which also provides details such as description, duration and updates as the construction of the project progresses.

At this stage, the internal GIS mapping had not been aligned and therefore we had to source an alternate way to place this information on Council's website. After consulting with staff, Google maps was identified as providing a tool for which met the project scope and could be easily linked to Council's website.

The main advantages of Google maps are its free cost and simplicity. It does not require specific training to create maps and as it is widely used within the community; its familiarity ensures it is user friendly. Locations can be identified by simply picking them off the map, or bulk uploaded with co-ordinates from a spreadsheet file. Icons can be easily changed and new icons imported. Icons of differing shapes and colours visually display a classification system. The base map layer can be selected from a handful of options including aerial, terrain and differing coloured choices.

A process map and procedure have been prepared and shared with staff to streamline the facilitation of the interactive map. A consolidated list of all capital road and drainage projects identified by suburb is also available.

The interactive map has each project marked with a pin outlining its location. The pin contains detailed project information including description of works, timeframe for construction commencement and duration, and a comment on how construction is progressing. The current interactive map for the 2019/20 roads and drainage capital works also includes the project's reference in Council's Operational Plan and the project budget.

2 Structure of the document

Each month Council's Project Development Engineers along with the Construction Delivery Engineers hold a meeting to discuss the progress of the projects and any issues being experienced with expenditure and/or constructability. As part of this meeting, a review of the Program is carried out with project timeframes, status and progress information captured. This information is captured with the corporate project management system and is able to be exported into a format which allows it to be uploaded to Google maps.

The map is a pictorial way of showing the community how many projects are planned across the financial year and holds us accountable to delivering to the community. The community is able to get a greater understanding of where works are being undertaken and see the large scale of projects being delivered across our region.

To ensure our community is aware that they may view our roads and drainage capital projects via the interactive map, several media articles have been published. Information has been provided in the newsletter sent out with rates notices and social media posts have also been shared.

Customer enquiries received relating to road and drainage projects are addressed with information reiterated on the availability of the interactive map. It is anticipated that the number of enquiries may decline, with customers able to find the information available on the interactive map.

3 Conclusions and recommendations

Since the introduction, further enhancements have been identified such as the placement of photos for individual projects as well as concept and design plans. The addition of Council's road and drainage maintenance program is also an enhancement being currently developed.

We have been overwhelmed with positive feedback received and last financial year's interactive map was nearing 20,000 views. With the roads and drainage interactive map being so well received by our community, Council has now developed additional interactive maps for Water & Sewer, Open Space & Recreation, Leisure & Lifestyle and Property Management.

The map gives visual representation to our roads and drainage capital works program that words on a page cannot. It offers a new perspective on how Council informs the community on the capital works program.

References

<https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/roadanddrainageprojects>

Photo – Interactive Map showing project details including photo of works

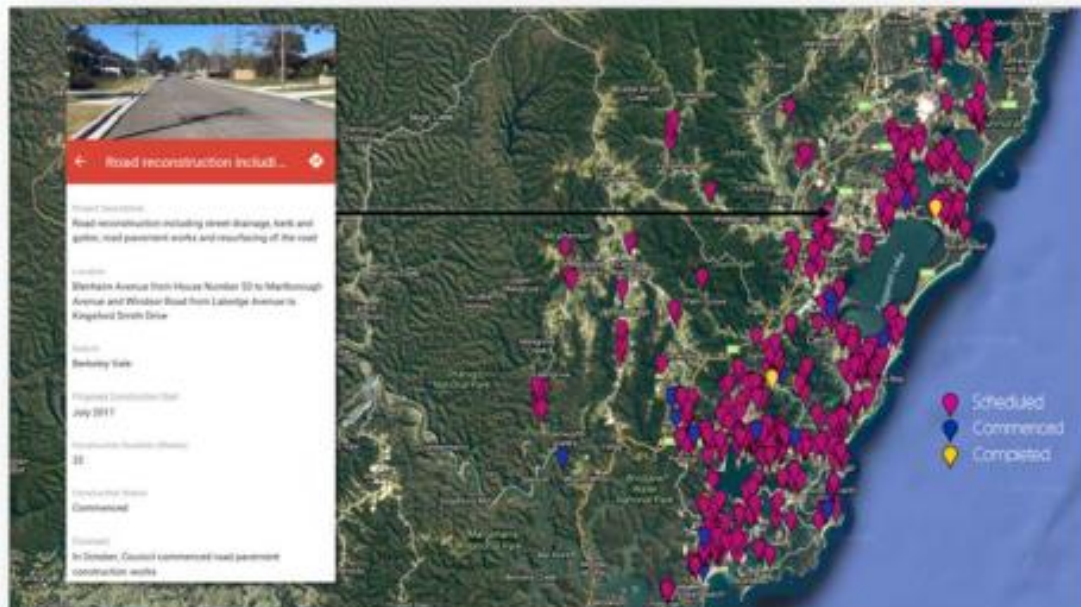


Photo – Interactive Map showing project details including plan of works

