Oxley Highway Traffic Congestion - who's responsible?

Council is concerned about the traffic congestion on the Oxley Highway coming in to Port Macquarie – particularly at the Pacific Highway, Wrights Road and Lake Road intersections. Peak period congestion is an inconvenience for many in our community and with our population and economy continuing to grow, improvements are needed.

Who's the Roads Authority?

You may have seen or heard comments about whether this problem ‘belongs to’ Council or the NSW Government, as different roads come under differing roads authorities. In our region there are three categories of roads:

- State
- Regional and
- Local roads.

State Roads are managed by the Roads and Maritime Services (NSW Government) and Regional and Local Roads are Council’s responsibility. Both Council and the NSW Government need to work together on our road network planning to ensure we have a safe, sustainable and efficient road system across our Local Government Area. While in theory we can draw lines on a map about who is responsible for what, to get the best possible transport network for our community, we need to be planning together.

The Oxley Highway is a “State” road and, as such, the Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) is generally responsible for traffic management and maintenance – this includes the intersections at the Pacific Highway and Wrights Road and Lake Roads (roundabouts).

To try and ensure the best outcomes for our community, Councillors and Senior Staff engage regularly with our local Members (both State and Federal) and the Roads Minister to advocate for improvements to the Oxley Highway and these intersections for our growing community. In addition, at a working level, staff engage with the RMS on road network planning via our Regional Transport Infrastructure Steering Group and Local Traffic Committee – both of which include RMS representatives.

For more information contact Council on (02) 6581 8111.