Katoomba to Mount Victoria safety upgrade

Great Western Highway – December 2016

The Australian and NSW governments are undertaking a $250 million upgrade package on the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow to improve traffic flow, safety and travel conditions.

The Great Western Highway upgrade is being carried out in sections to provide road users with a better travelling experience and includes a number of projects which are underway, including safety upgrades at Forty Bends, in the Hartley Valley and Mount Victoria village.

The remaining funding will be used for safety upgrades in a priority order between Katoomba and Mount Victoria, passing through the townships of Blackheath and Medlow Bath.

The proposal improves safety between Katoomba and Mount Victoria by widening the highway shoulders, providing dedicated turn lanes and carrying out other safety work.

Review of Environmental Factors

Roads and Maritime prepared a Review of Environmental Factors to examine the potential impacts of the proposed upgrade to the Great Western Highway, Katoomba to Mount Victoria, and to outline measures to reduce and manage the impacts. This Review was displayed for community and stakeholder comment in early 2016.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to consider the proposal and provide feedback. We received 100 submissions in response to the display including two submissions from government agencies or advisory bodies. The remainder were from members of the community and interest groups.
The most common points raised in the submissions included:

- Tree removal and environmental mitigation measures
- Pedestrian and cyclist facilities
- Traffic and safety including loss of parking and changes to signage
- Project justification and alternatives
- Visual amenity
- Changes to Govetts Leap Road/Bundana Street/Great Western Highway
- Noise and vibration
- Maintaining posted speed limits

Roads and Maritime has considered all of the feedback proposed factors. Our team has reviewed the feedback and an overview of the design refinements that have been made since the display.

You can access the Submissions Report on Road and Maritime’s website at http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/Projects/NSW-Katoomba-Lithgow.html or by contacting us on 1800 035 733 or K2Lupgrade@rms.nsw.gov.au

**Prioritisation of work**

In July 2012 the Australian and New South Wales (NSW) governments announced a $250 million package of road safety work to improve safety and travel conditions along the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow. The investment package includes:

- A three lane upgrade of the Highway at Forty Bends, east of Lithgow.
- An enhanced safety work package between Mount Victoria and Lithgow including work in Hartley Valley.
- Finalising the concept design and road boundaries for upgrading the highway between Mount Victoria and Lithgow.

Safety upgrades between Katoomba and Mount Victoria were identified as part of this package. Once the above work has been completed, the remaining funds from the joint $250 million Australian and NSW government commitment will be dedicated to the Katoomba to Mount Victoria road safety upgrade. As the Mount Victoria Village and Hartley Valley to Forty Bends projects have progressed, Roads and Maritime now has a more accurate estimate of funding available for the Katoomba to Mount Victoria safety upgrades and has reviewed and prioritised the scope of the proposed safety upgrades.

**Listening to the community**

The displayed Review of Environmental Factors described and assessed the proposed work in its entirety, however the proposal will be carried out in stages with the prioritisation of stages and design refinements based on safety, community feedback, environmental factors and constructability.

Some elements of the proposal, described and assessed in the Review of Environmental Factors, have been removed from the proposed scope of work as a result of community feedback and further consideration of environmental impact. We have included a map to show the design and immediate prioritisation refinements which remain dependent on available funding, final design and the tender process. Please refer to Chapter 4 of the Submissions Report for more information on the design and prioritisation refinements.

**Intersection safety**

The Review of Environmental Factors outlined changes that would maintain or improve road user safety while at the same time improving traffic flow at several intersections along the Great Western Highway, Katoomba to Mount Victoria. The major intersection in the Blackheath township of the Great Western Highway/Govetts Leap Road/Bundana Street, was of particular community interest. The intersection provides access to the Blackheath shops and to Blackheath on the western side of the railway line. Roads and Maritime consider the upgrade at this intersection and others to be necessary to improve safety. Please refer to Chapter 3 of the Submissions Report for information about the upgrades to the Great Western Highway/Govetts Leap Road/Bundana Street intersection including the provision of right and left turn bays to:

- Reduce the potential for rear and head on collisions by allowing vehicles waiting to turn right out of the path of the through traffic
- Reduce delays to traffic allowing traffic to travel through Blackheath at a more uniform and therefore safe speed
- Improve pedestrian safety as left turn traffic must give way to pedestrians crossing the signalised pedestrian crossings on the side roads.

**LEGEND**

- Widened sealed road shoulders
- Wide painted central median
- Road realignment
- Intersection improvement
- Installation of pipes instead of open drainage
- Bus stop and pedestrian refuge relocation
- Dedicated right turn bay

**IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES - Section D**

- Brightlands - signs to only permit left in/left out
- Chelmsford - signs to only permit left in/left out
- Sutton Park access - dedicated right turn bay, widened sealed road shoulders
- Jellicoe Street - closing street access from the highway (access via Abbott Street)
- Hargraves Road - dedicated right turn bay
- Prince George Street - dedicated right turn bay
- Abbott Street - dedicated right turn bay and left turn bay
- Leichhardt Street - signs to only permit left in/left out
- Sutton Lane - signs to only permit left in/left out
- Govetts Leap Road - dedicated left and right turn lanes, through lane in each direction. Eight on-street parking spaces would be removed from the westbound side of the highway, west of the intersection
- Gardener Crescent and Hat Hill Road - dedicated right turns
- Sturt Street - signs to only permit left in/left out
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For further information and feedback

For more information about the project, please contact the Roads and Maritime project team:

T 1800 035 733 (toll free)
E K2Lupgrade@rms.nsw.gov.au

You can also email the project team and ask to be added to the stakeholder list to ensure you receive up-to-date information.

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Tree retention

The retention of trees was raised as a key community concern at locations across the Katoomba to Mount Victoria safety upgrade proposal. In response to community feedback, the scope of the proposal has changed allowing the retention of trees at the following locations:

• Between Evans Lookout Road and Chilsmford Avenue
• Near the cemetery access
• Between Radiance Avenue and Sunbeam Avenue.

The design development process has sought to minimise the loss of trees associated with the road safety upgrade and to mitigate the loss of street trees through replanting, where feasible. However, to improve safety on the Great Western Highway removal of some street trees is unavoidable.

During detailed project design an arboricultural impact assessment will be carried out by a qualified arborist of the impacts on street trees and Roads and Maritime will establish a Tree Management Plan for the Katoomba to Mount Victoria safety upgrade.

Project benefits

The Great Western Highway is a critical transport link between Sydney and central New South Wales. Project benefits include:

• Safety upgrades between Katoomba and Mount Victoria will:
  • Improve traffic flow
  • Improve travel conditions
  • Reduce local intersection congestion
  • Improve safety for all road users.

Community consultation

Investigation into local area, community issues and road safety issues

Potential treatment report

Preferred treatment report

Community comment on proposed concept design and review of environmental factors

Project approval sought for the final concept design

Detailed design

Construction

Tenders are expected to be invited in the first half of 2017 with construction expected to start late in 2017.

Next steps

Roads and Maritime has determined the Review of Environmental Factors for Katoomba to Mount Victoria safety upgrade and is proceeding with the detailed design phase of the project.

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This document contains important information about road projects in your area. If you require the services of an interpreter please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call the Katoomba and Mount Victoria project team on 1300 035 733. The interpreter will then assist you with translation.

Privacy

Roads and Maritime Services is subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPiP Act) which requires that we comply with the Information Privacy Principles set out in the PPiP Act.

All information in correspondence is collected for the sole purpose of assisting in the assessment of the proposal for delivering the project. The information received, including names and addresses of respondents, may be published in subsequent documents unless a clear indication is given in the correspondence that all or part of that information is not to be published. Otherwise Roads and Maritime will only disclose your personal information, without your consent, if authorised by the law. Your personal information will be held by Roads and Maritime at Suite 801, 50 Berry Street, North Sydney. You have the right to access and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.

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