Scone bypass preferred option

The Australian and NSW Governments have announced the preferred option for the future upgrade of the New England Highway at Scone to address rising road and rail volumes and safety issues.

The preferred option includes a New England Highway bypass of Scone and a local road over rail bridge at Kelly Street.

This community update provides more information about the preferred option and next steps for the project.

Background
Roads and Maritime Services has carried out an options assessment and feasibility study to consider the impacts of rail operations on the New England Highway (Kelly Street) rail level crossing in Scone and identify a preferred solution.

The Kelly Street rail level crossing is the only remaining level crossing on the New England Highway and provides access across the Great Northern Railway, which is a significant coal haulage railway line.

Around 8000 vehicles use the crossing every day including 1200 heavy vehicles. The New England Highway south of Scone carries 8400 vehicles per day, peaking in town at 14,000.

There is also a poor crash history on the four kilometre section of the New England Highway in the study area with 25 crashes in the five years to 2013 including one fatality.

The study was funded by the Australian Government and the options assessment and feasibility report is available to view at the Roads and Maritime website at rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects

The Australian and NSW Governments have each committed $45 million to build the preferred option by 2019.

Preferred option
The preferred option involves building a two lane highway bypass to the west of Scone, passing through the Scone Golf Course. The bypass would bridge over the rail line south of town, Kingdon Street and Liverpool Street.

Access to and from the bypass would be provided to the north and south of town and midway at St Aubins Street. The golf course would be re-configured as part of the project.

A rail bridge would also be built on the existing Kelly Street alignment for local traffic and emergency services. To manage traffic during construction, the Kelly Street bridge would be built after the bypass opens.

A road bypass received strong community support during the November 2012 and May 2013 options displays and the combined solution best meets the long term plans and strategies of governments, while catering for local traffic into the future.

The bypass aims to support freight and long distance travel as part of the Sydney-Brisbane National Land Transport Network and would benefit the NSW and national economy.

Bypassing Scone also aligns with the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan’s focus on providing essential access for regional NSW by providing town bypasses to improve travel within towns, reduce delays caused to freight traffic, increase safety and improve urban amenity through reduced noise, lower emissions and less traffic.
Preferred option – New England Highway bypass of Scone and road over rail bridge at Kelly Street

- New route for New England Highway. Includes one lane in each direction and 100km/h speed limit.
- Bypass to traverse through golf course.
- Bridge over Kingdon Street.
- Bridge over Liverpool Street.
- New England Highway (proposed).
- Northern bypass intersection with Kelly Street.
- Southern bypass intersection with Kelly Street.
- Bypass intersection with St Aubins Street.

Note: Intersection layouts to be refined during concept design development.

- Left and right turn movements onto bypass.
- Left turn movement onto bypass. Left and right turn movements into St Aubins Street.
- Right turn lane.
- Left turn lane.
- Turning bay.
- Acceleration lane.
- Bridge over railway line at Kelly Street.

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Next steps

The Australian and NSW Governments have each committed $45 million to build the project by 2019.

Roads and Maritime will continue to work with Upper Hunter Shire Council to develop the preferred option.

The project will now move to concept design and environmental impact assessment, which will consider intersection layouts, flooding and drainage, the impact on community facilities and bypass signage.

This work will identify the full impact of the project on private and public property. Roads and Maritime will work with potentially affected property owners on potential property impacts.

For more information

The options assessment and feasibility report containing more information is available to view at the Roads and Maritime website at rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects

For more information about the project visit:
Phone: Project Manager, Phil Davidson on 02 4924 0332 (during business hours)
Email: philip.davidson@rms.nsw.gov.au
Mail: Roads and Maritime Services Hunter Regional Office
Locked Bag 2030
Newcastle NSW 2300