The concept design and road boundaries for the future upgrade of the Great Western Highway between Mount Victoria and Lithgow have now been completed. This community update provides details about the concept design and road boundaries.

Background

The Australian Government in partnership with the New South Wales Government has committed $250 million as part of the Nation Building Program to upgrade the Great Western Highway between Mount Victoria and Lithgow.

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) started the project development process in 2008 with the project announcement. Since then RMS has worked closely with the community and stakeholders to complete the concept design.

In July 2012, the Australian and New South Wales governments announced a revised investment program that included completing the concept design and road boundaries for the highway upgrade between Mount Victoria and Lithgow.

RMS has now completed the concept design. The road boundaries have been refined, based on the final concept design, and will be provided to councils for future land use planning.

The final concept design and road boundaries are available for viewing on our website www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects.

Community feedback about the concept design

The proposed concept design and road boundaries for the future upgrade were placed on public display for comment in July 2012.

Extensive feedback was received from the local and wider community and stakeholders. This feedback has been considered in completing the concept design and road boundaries.

The community and stakeholder feedback received is summarised in the Mount Victoria to Lithgow Concept Design Community and Stakeholder Feedback Report which is available on our website.

Final concept design

The concept design has been refined in response to issues raised during community and stakeholder consultation. The changes include:

- The number of water quality basins has been reduced on local roads.
- The curve of the highway near Fernhill has been improved.
- An area has been provided for buses to drop-off and pick-up instead of a roundabout at Old Bathurst Road, South Bowenfels.
- A u-turn bay has been provided instead of a roundabout at Mudgee Street, South Bowenfels.
- The u-turn bay at Baaners Lane, Little Hartley, has been moved 100 metres further down the lane.

Hartley Historic Site, Darling Causeway and heavy vehicle rest areas, all received strong community and stakeholder interest. More information is included on the map shown on pages 2 and 3.
Great Western Highway upgrade between Mount Victoria and Lithgow - Final concept design

**Hartley Historic Site**
In response to community feedback about potential impacts on the Hartley Historic Site, RMS has agreed that the service road will no longer provide for through traffic, nor pass the Royal Hotel. This would minimise impacts on heritage. More information can be found in the Concept Design Completion Report on our website.

**Forty Bends upgrade**
This upgrade will be the first section of the concept design to be constructed. For design details refer to the Forty Bends Review of Environmental Factors and the Forty Bends Submissions Report on our website.

**Heavy vehicle rest areas**
Locations of eastbound and westbound heavy vehicle rest areas were previously identified. In response to community feedback the layout would be designed to minimise impact.

**Darling Causeway**
Community feedback indicated a preference for a connection between Darling Causeway and the Great Western Highway to reduce heavy vehicles travelling through Mount Victoria. In response, RMS has developed an option to provide a connection for vehicles traveling between Katoomba and Bells Line of Road. More information can be found in the Concept Design Completion Report on our website.

For more detailed plans refer to the concept design on our website
What happens next?

The road boundaries will be provided to Lithgow City Council and Blue Mountains City Council for inclusion in their local environmental plans. This will assist in future land use planning along the Great Western Highway.

The road boundaries currently accommodate options developed for the Hartley Historic Site, heavy vehicle rest areas and the Darling Causeway connection.

Assessment and selection of options will be undertaken when funding is made available for the project to proceed. The community and stakeholders will be consulted at that time.

Concept design reports

Further detailed information on the final concept design can be found within the Mount Victoria to Lithgow Concept Design Completion Report.


The final concept design can be viewed at the following locations until the end of May 2013:

- Blue Mountains City Council
  2-6 Civic Place
  Katoomba
  NSW 2780

- Lithgow City Council
  180 Mort Street
  Lithgow
  NSW 2790

Thank you

The interest and involvement from community members and stakeholders is greatly appreciated by the project team. Local knowledge shared by the community and stakeholders has made a valuable contribution to the final concept design.

RMS will continue to keep the community informed of any future developments about the project.