



Australian Government

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The existing New England Highway at Bolivia Hill

Bolivia Hill upgrade

Project update - May 2017

The Australian and NSW governments have committed funding for planning and building the upgrade of the New England Highway at Bolivia Hill. The existing highway has a poor crash history due to narrow lanes and road shoulders, a rock face on one side and a steep rock valley on the other.

Roads and Maritime Services is delivering the New England Highway upgrade at Bolivia Hill, about 35 kilometres south of Tenterfield.

The project involves building about 2.1 kilometres of new road, a new 320 metre long bridge, wider lanes in each direction and widened road shoulders to improve safety.

Project objectives

A range of route options were considered in the project's strategic concept design phase. The preferred route was selected in February 2014, as it best met the project objectives to:

- improve road safety
- provide value for money

- improve road transport productivity, efficiency and reliability of travel
- minimise the impact on the natural, cultural and built environment.

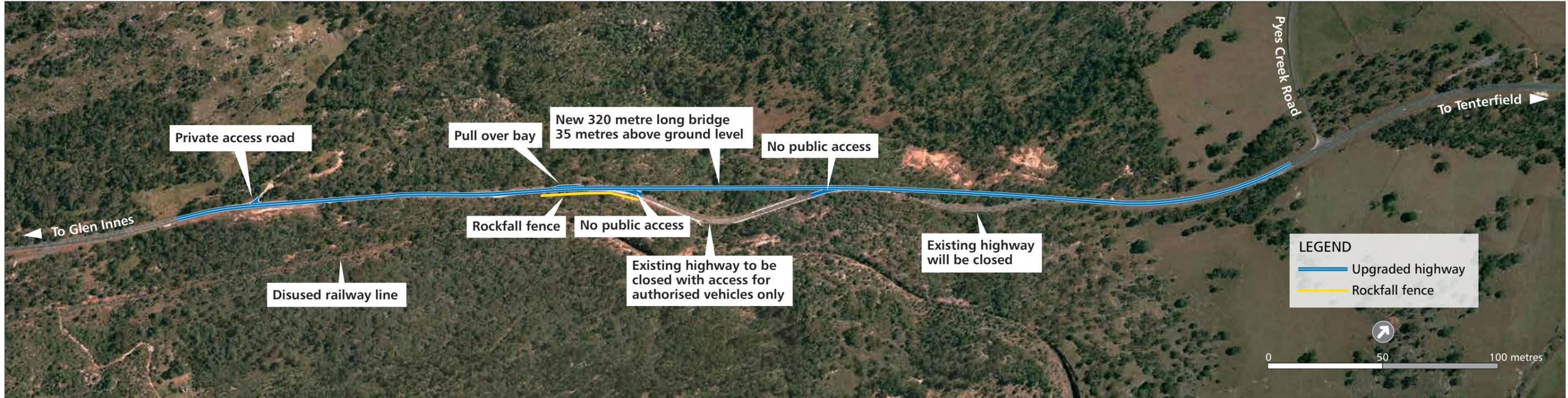
Detailed design

Detailed design started in early 2016, and is nearing completion.

Activities in finalising the design include:

- refining the design of the bridge, drainage structures and landscaping
- discussions with landowners.

The project team has been working closely with council during this process. We will continue to talk with stakeholders and the community as we refine the detailed design.



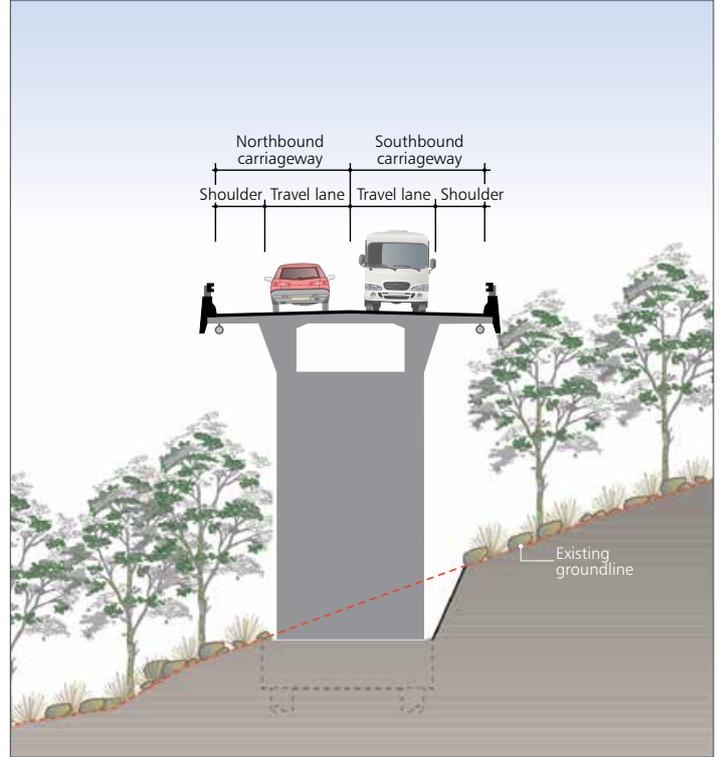
Map showing the design for Bolivia Hill upgrade



Artist's impression showing the upgrade with the new bridge



Vehicles using the existing highway at Bolivia



Diagrammatic cross section of the proposed new road bridge

Environment and cultural heritage

As part of our commitment to protect the environment, we worked with Northern Tablelands Local Land Services to collect seed from the native Bolivia Wattle and store them for future revegetation and tree planting activities.

The Bolivia Wattle is unique to the area, growing only between Glen Innes and Tenterfield.

The project has also allowed employment for young Aboriginal people, with members of the Aboriginal Men's Group recruited to observe the Bolivia Wattle trees regularly and to monitor flower show and seed settings for harvest when ready.

What happens next?

Roads and Maritime will continue to talk with property owners prior to finalising the detailed design. Once the detailed design is finished, we will call for tenders. This is expected to happen later this year.

Work to build the upgrade is expected to start in early 2018 and will take about two years to finish. We will continue to keep the community and stakeholders informed as this project progresses.

For more information

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🌐 www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/northern-nsw/bolivia-hill-new-england-highway