



Great Western Highway Upgrade

Blackheath Co-Design Committee

Information sheet

The Program

The NSW Government is investing \$2.5 billion towards upgrading the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow to a four lane carriageway. Once completed, the upgrade Program will reduce congestion and deliver safer, faster and more reliable journeys for those travelling in, around and through the mountains.

The Great Western Highway Upgrade Program will progressively deliver dual carriageway (four lanes) between Katoomba and Lithgow, as sections receive approval and further funding is allocated.

Background

Initial consultation for the Great Western Highway Upgrade Program took place with the community and stakeholders in November and December 2019.

This consultation reintroduced the alignment between Mount Victoria and Lithgow which was previously reserved in the Local Environment Plans of both Blue Mountains City and Lithgow City Councils in 2013.

It also sought feedback on a new strategic corridor between Katoomba and Mount Victoria.

This strategic corridor currently does not include Blackheath, as preferred route options are yet to be determined.

Blackheath is instead being treated as a separate strategic study area where Transport for NSW wants to work with the community to co-design route options.

Some broad potential options were provided to stakeholders and community and we have received community feedback on these. Several alternate options have also been proposed by the community and stakeholders.

Transport for NSW is now establishing the Blackheath Co-Design Committee (BCC). Its members are intended to work collaboratively to refine potential route options in Blackheath for further community and stakeholder consultation in mid-2020.

Simultaneously, Transport for NSW will carry out key technical studies to inform potential route options through Blackheath.

The flow chart on the reverse of this page outlines next steps for the Program in Blackheath.

Next steps



Purpose of the BCC

The purpose of the BCC is to facilitate a process which involves representatives of the community working collaboratively with Transport for NSW to refine potential route options, through Blackheath, for the Great Western Highway Upgrade Program.

The BCC provides a forum for discussion between Transport for NSW, Blue Mountains City Council, key local stakeholder representatives such as police and emergency services, and community representatives.

The BCC is not a decision-making or regulatory body. It performs an advisory and consultative role only. The final decision will be made by the State Government, with recommendations from this Committee contributing to the decision-making process.

The BCC is formed solely for the purpose of refining potential strategic route options through Blackheath, as part of the Great Western Highway Upgrade Program. The BCC will be disbanded following reporting on community and stakeholder consultation on these options. This consultation is expected to occur in mid-2020.

Alternative program options and individual project options such as rail upgrades, or the use of alternative road corridors (for example Bells Line of Road), are outside the scope of this Committee.