

JULY 2012

\$250 million Great Western Highway investment program

The Australian and NSW governments have agreed on a revised package of upgrades to improve safety and travel conditions between Katoomba and Lithgow. This decision addresses recommendations from an independent review of the proposed upgrades of the Great Western Highway west of Katoomba.

The revised investment package

The revised package of upgrades will enhance safety outcomes and maximise benefits to the community by targeting specific deficiencies.

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) will manage and deliver the following by mid 2016:

- Upgrading the highway at Forty Bends, east of Lithgow to three lanes on the current alignment (\$120 million).
- An enhanced safety works package between Lithgow and Mount Victoria, including safety works through Little Hartley and Hartley and at the Jenolan Caves Road intersection where major works were previously proposed (\$83 million).
- Finalising the concept design and road boundaries for upgrading the highway from Lithgow to Mount Victoria and requesting councils to adopt these in their future planning.
- Using the remaining funds from the joint \$250 million Australian and NSW government commitment for upgrades of the Great Western Highway between Mount Victoria and Katoomba.

What prompted the review of funding?

In May 2010 the NSW and Australian governments announced an initial \$250 million investment to fund upgrades between Mount Victoria and Lithgow including:

- Safety improvements around Victoria Pass and the township of Mount Victoria.
- A bypass to the south of Little Hartley including intersection improvements at Coxs River Road, Baaners Lane and Browns Gap Road.
- The southern alignment option at River Lett Hill.
- Preserving the corridor so work could proceed on other sections when additional funding becomes available.

In September 2011 the NSW Government engaged Evans and Peck to undertake an independent review of the proposed upgrades of the Great Western Highway west of Katoomba.



The review was initiated following concerns raised by some community members about environmental, cultural, social and economic impacts of the upgrade projects and to ensure that the best value for money is obtained from the investment.

The independent review of the proposed upgrades of the Great Western Highway west of Katoomba is now available for your information. You can download it from www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects.

Great Western Highway revised investment package

Independent review recommendations 2012	Response
Build the proposed Forty Bends upgrade of the Great Western Highway.	Agreed and in the revised investment package.
Undertake an integrated transport study covering freight and passenger movements between the Central West and the coast, including consideration of road, rail and port connectivity.	These issues will be considered as part of the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan (to be released later in 2012).
Deliver an enhanced safety program of works including improvements through Little Hartley and Hartley and at the Jenolan Caves Road intersection.	Agreed and in the revised investment package more information is available on the RMS website.
Defer incorporation of road boundaries into council land use planning instruments.	RMS will display the concept design and road boundaries for upgrading the highway between Lithgow and Mount Victoria. Finalising the design and boundaries will provide greater planning certainty.
Reallocate funds previously earmarked for the Mount Victoria to Lithgow upgrade.	This revised package describes how previously allocated funds will now be invested on this part of the National Land Transport Network.
Develop and implement a Bells Line of Road safety program including pavement widening and regular overtaking lanes.	The Australian and NSW governments are working on a Long Term Strategic Corridor Plan for the Bells Line of Road. The Plan will recommend short, medium and long term upgrade priorities for the Bells Line of Road.
New pedestrian overbridge at Bullaburra to replace the proposed ground level pedestrian crossing.	Agreed. RMS sought community comment on two proposals for a pedestrian bridge to cross the highway to Bullaburra railway station. The NSW government has decided to proceed with the option of a pedestrian overbridge with ramps and stairs and no pedestrian crossing at ground level.
Fully synchronise traffic signals through Blackheath including pedestrian activated signals.	RMS will investigate and determine if it is appropriate to undertake this proposal as part of the revised investment package.
Explore cost effectiveness of projects between Katoomba and Mount Victoria that offer community benefit (e.g. intersections at Evans Lookout Road, Hat Hill Road, Govetts Leap Road/Bundarra Street).	Agreed. Remaining funds from the joint \$250 million Australian and NSW government commitment will be used to fund upgrades between Mount Victoria and Katoomba.
Investigate a Caltex Station Truck Stop alternative with the trucking industry including potential rest area locations and amenities.	RMS has liaised with stakeholders concerning safety upgrades at Mount Victoria. RMS is developing a proposal to improve safety at this location as part of the enhanced safety works package.