New England Highway upgrade between Belford and the Golden Highway

Roads and Maritime Services is planning to upgrade the New England Highway between Belford and the Golden Highway to improve traffic flow, travel times and safety for motorists. This community update contains information on the proposed option and next steps for the project.

The proposal involves providing a divided road with two travel lanes in each direction between Belford and the Golden Highway and a flyover for vehicles turning right from the Golden Highway towards Maitland and Newcastle.

Stakeholders and the community are invited to comment on the proposal by 22 June 2015. Feedback will be considered by Roads and Maritime when carrying out the concept design and environmental assessment.

Background

The New England Highway is part of the inland route of the Sydney to Brisbane National Land Transport Network and the primary route connecting the Upper Hunter with Maitland and Newcastle. The Golden Highway connects the New England Highway at Whittingham with Dubbo.

These road corridors are designated B-Double routes and are used extensively by heavy vehicles servicing coal mining, grain production and other industries in the Hunter Valley and the Central West to access the port of Newcastle.

The New England Highway is a critical connection between the urban and employment centres of Maitland and Singleton, which are planned future growth areas for the Hunter region.

Around 22,000 vehicles travel along the New England Highway between Belford and the Golden Highway each day. This section of the New England Highway is currently two lanes westbound and one lane eastbound and has a history of crashes, particularly near the Golden Highway intersection.

The NSW Government has announced $85 million funding for the upgrade under the Rebuilding NSW Plan.

Project benefits

The proposed upgrade would:

- Increase capacity and connectivity of the New England Highway and Golden Highway for the efficient and reliable movement of freight
- Improve safety at the New England Highway and Golden Highway intersection by reducing the risk of crashes, particularly for motorists turning right from the Golden Highway
- Increase capacity at the New England Highway and Golden Highway intersection to cater for the predicted increase in traffic movements due to future growth in the Hunter
- Allow for access to existing and future adjoining land uses.
Project features
The proposed upgrade would include:

• Widening the New England Highway to provide a divided road with two travel lanes in each direction between Belford and the Golden Highway. This is the last section of the route between Newcastle and the Golden Highway intersection to be upgraded to a four lane divided road

• Replacing the existing right turn movement from the Golden Highway to the New England Highway with a right turn flyover

• Establishing a road corridor for future development of the New England Highway towards Singleton.
Involving the community and stakeholders
Roads and Maritime is working with the community and stakeholders during the planning process to identify issues and minimise potential impacts of the proposed upgrade. Stakeholders and the community are invited to comment on the proposal by 22 June 2015.

Next steps
The next step will be to progress the concept design and environmental assessment, which are expected to be displayed for community comment in late 2016.

Please send us your feedback by:
Phoning: Jason Laverty, Project Development Manager on 02 4924 0368 (during business hours)
Emailing: Jason.Laverty@rms.nsw.gov.au
Writing to: Jason Laverty, Project Development Manager Roads and Maritime Services Locked Bag 2030 Newcastle NSW 2300 Comments are invited by 22 June 2015.
Information is also available on the Roads and Maritime website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects

This document contains important information about road projects in your area. If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call the project team on 1300 660 275. The interpreter will then assist you with translation.

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