

# New England Highway – Muswellbrook bypass

## Project update

Roads and Maritime Services | February 2019

The NSW Government is providing \$266 million to fund a New England Highway bypass of Muswellbrook. The bypass would improve travel times for long haul freight movements and safety for all road users.

### Background

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

The highway passes through the centre of Muswellbrook and is a two lane road, restricted by numerous intersections and adjacent buildings with minimal setback from the road. The highway carries between 9600 to 19,500 vehicles through the township each day, about 13 per cent being heavy vehicles.

An options report confirming the preferred route corridor was published in July 2018. The preferred route option is a full bypass around 9.1 kilometres in length which is a refinement of the previous corridor identified in the Muswellbrook Shire Council Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2009, with changes to improve constructability and access.

### Work in progress

We are currently progressing a strategic business case so we can work towards completing the concept design and environmental assessment.

The first step is selecting a preferred option generally within the preferred route corridor. Developing the preferred option includes:

- site investigations to identify geotechnical and environmental constraints to minimise potential impacts
- consultation and investigations to better understand any potential heritage impacts
- developing design options for the alignment and connections to the existing New England Highway
- value management workshops to identify the most economically and environmentally viable preferred option.



Keep  
**trucks off**  
local streets



Better and more  
**reliable trips**  
for people, business and freight

