



Australian Government

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**



July 2016

## **Project update for New England Highway bypass of Scone and rail bridge**

**The Australian and NSW Governments have each committed \$45 million for a New England Highway bypass of Scone and a local rail bridge to improve traffic flow, travel times and safety for road users.**

Roads and Maritime Services is building a New England Highway bypass to the west of Scone and planning a local rail bridge in Scone. The project will improve local traffic flow and amenity, travel times for freight and long distance motorists, and safety for all road users.

The concept design and review of environmental factors (REF) for the bypass and three strategic design options for the rail bridge were displayed for community feedback from 15 December 2015 to 19 February 2016. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to provide feedback.

### **New England Highway bypass of Scone**

A total of 211 submissions were received during the public display with the main issues relating to lack of connectivity at the southern and northern bypass intersections, proposed speed limit, loss of passing trade, traffic and access impacts, concerns about the St Aubins Street intersection, other alternatives considered and impact to emergency services.

We have published a submissions report summarising community comments, our responses and details of changes to the concept design made after feedback from the community during the display period. A copy of this report can be viewed or downloaded from the Roads and Maritime website at [rms.nsw.gov.au](http://rms.nsw.gov.au) and follow the links to Hunter projects.

### **What changes have been made to the bypass design?**

We have listened to community feedback and refined the bypass concept design to improve access to and from Scone and enhance safety.

#### ***Southern and northern intersections***

The southern bypass intersection has been modified to an interchange to safely allow for all turning movements. An underpass has been added to allow vehicles travelling from the south to safely access Scone without turning across oncoming traffic. This two-way underpass will also allow vehicles exiting Scone to access the bypass to travel north. Refer to section 4.2 of the submissions report for more information.

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The northern bypass intersection has also been modified to allow for all turning movements. A right turn lane has been added to the bypass, allowing vehicles travelling north on the bypass to turn into Scone at the northern intersection. Refer to section 4.8 of the submissions report for more information.

### ***St Aubins Street intersection***

The southbound left turn lane from the bypass into Scone has been moved further away from the intersection to improve visibility and safety for vehicles turning from St Aubins Street onto the bypass. Aberdeen Street will also be widened to improve access to the St Aubins Street intersection. Refer to sections 4.4 and 4.5 of the submissions report for more information.

### ***Access to and from private property***

Modified arrangements have been developed to improve access to and from the St Aubins property and properties near the northern end of the bypass. Roads and Maritime will continue to liaise with property owners during detailed design. Refer to sections 4.1, 4.6, and 4.9 of the submissions report for more information.

### ***Connection between the Scone Golf Club and the golf course.***

Connection between the club house and golf course has been provided under the first span of the bridge over Parsons Gully. We will continue to liaise with the Scone Golf Club during detailed design. Refer to section 4.3 of the submissions report for more information.

### **Next steps**

The environmental assessment for the bypass was finalised at the end of April 2016. This means the proposed bypass has been approved and will proceed into detailed design. We will continue to work with key stakeholders and the community as detailed design of the bypass progresses.

### **Rail bridge**

A total of 187 submissions were received during the public display about strategic design options for the rail bridge. There was limited support for the displayed options with the main issues relating to alternatives, need for the bridge and impact on local traffic, businesses and passing trade, community facilities and emergency services.

We have published a community consultation report which summarises community feedback and our responses to the issues raised. A copy of this report can be viewed or downloaded from the Roads and Maritime website at [rms.nsw.gov.au](http://rms.nsw.gov.au) and follow the links to Hunter projects.

### **Next steps**

We will continue development of options for the rail bridge. Roads and Maritime will continue to work with key stakeholders and the community as the project progresses and we expect to seek further community feedback later in 2016.

### **Contact**

If you have any questions, please call Phil Davidson on 02 4924 0332 or Mark Cure on 02 4924 0226 during business hours or email [philip.davidson@rms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:philip.davidson@rms.nsw.gov.au). For more information on our projects, visit [rms.nsw.gov.au](http://rms.nsw.gov.au)