

AUGUST 2011

## Scone rail level crossing - options and feasibility study

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is undertaking an options and feasibility study of upgrade options for the New England Highway (Kelly Street) rail level crossing at Scone. The study is funded by the Australian Government, under the Regional Infrastructure Fund.

You are invited to meetings on 25 August 2011 to learn more about the study. The meetings will be held at 2pm and 6pm at the Upper Hunter Shire Council Chambers, 135 Liverpool Street, Scone. You can read the Terms of Reference for the study on the project's website.

### Background

Scone in the Upper Hunter is traversed by the New England Highway and the Great Northern Railway (between Newcastle and Werris Creek), both part of the National Land Transport Network, which intersect at a level crossing. There are currently 10,000 vehicles a day using the crossing.

Scone has two rail level crossings and freight trains passing through Scone prevent cross-town movements for some minutes. It is anticipated that an increase in coal haulage by rail will further disrupt business and community activity in Scone. Current coal haulage volumes are forecast to double by 2014.

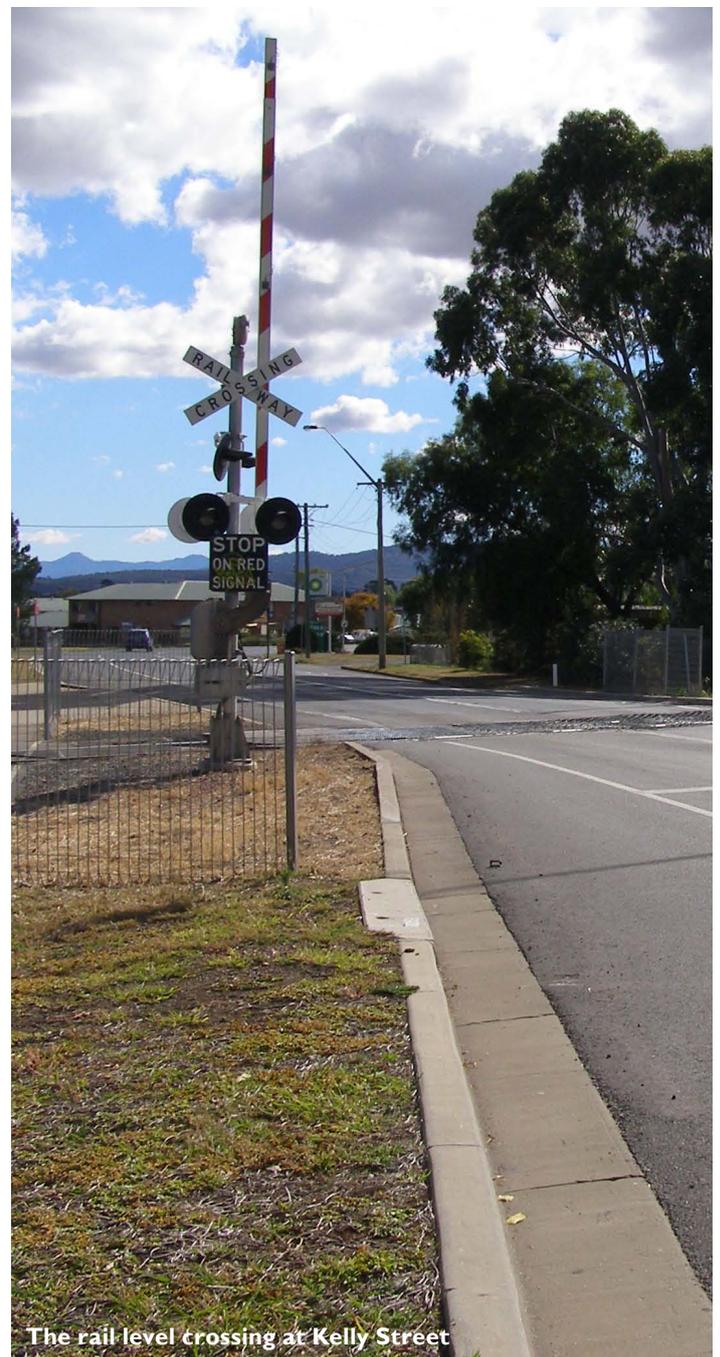
The RTA on behalf of the Australian Government is managing an options and feasibility study to develop a preferred solution for upgrading the crossing.

### Options and feasibility study

The purpose of the options and feasibility study is to recommend a preferred solution after considering:

- Disruption to the local community.
- Risks to the response capabilities of police and emergency services.
- Potential impact of any planned changes such as to coal haulage.

It is anticipated that the study will be finalised by the end of 2012. You can read the Terms of Reference for the study on the project's website.



The rail level crossing at Kelly Street

## Benefits of planning the future upgrade

- Identifies the current and anticipated future impacts of the operation of the New England Highway rail level crossing in Scone on the local community and the operation of transport.
- Ensures the community is aware of planning for the upgrade, and provides an opportunity for community and stakeholder involvement.
- Provides an overall strategic management plan for the rail level crossing for both the short and long term.

## Upcoming planning activities

Activities and investigations for the study include:

- Community and stakeholder discussions.
- Traffic surveys.
- Preliminary environmental investigations.
- Preliminary geotechnical investigations.
- Field surveys.

If any of these investigations require access to private property, this will only occur with the prior consent of the owners.

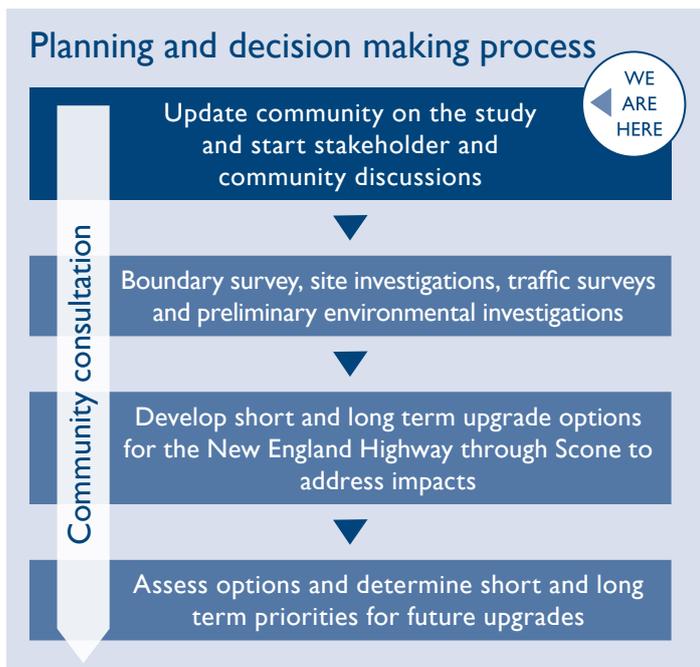
## Involving the community and stakeholders

The RTA is working with the Upper Hunter Shire Council, the Australian Rail Track Corporation, emergency service providers, property owners, residents, road users and other stakeholders in this planning process. Your comments on the existing crossing and ideas and opinions on solutions are welcome. Please send written comments to the project manager.

You are invited to meetings on 25 August 2011 to learn more about the study. The meetings will be held at 2pm and 6pm at the Upper Hunter Shire Council Chambers, 135 Liverpool Street, Scone.

The purpose of the meetings is to introduce the project team, discuss the Terms of Reference for the study, receive your ideas and suggestions and answer any questions you may have.

Please contact us if you plan to attend for catering and room set up purposes.



## Tell us what you think.

We have a new website [www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects). We hope this site makes it easier to find the project information you need.

We are interested in your feedback. Email us at [Project\\_Customer\\_Services@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Project_Customer_Services@rta.nsw.gov.au)

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August 2011  
RTA/Pub.11.358