

Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran

Frequently asked questions – Business and shopper surveys

Transport for NSW | February 2020

Q. What is happening?

As part of the Newell Highway upgrade, the NSW Government has announced a preferred route for a future bypass of Coonabarabran. The proposed bypass would provide motorists with a safer and more efficient journey, and remove heavy vehicle traffic from Coonabarabran.

The proposed bypass would involve building a new eight kilometre bypass, three kilometres to the east of town. It would start near the 100 km/h zone heading into Coonabarabran from the south and re-join the existing highway near the current Oxley and Newell Highway intersection.

The NSW Government is committed to improving connectivity and safety for all road users, including freight vehicles along the Newell Highway.

Aurecon will be completing investigations to help us understand the potential impacts of the preferred route on local stakeholders and the community on behalf of Transport for NSW. This includes an assessment of the preferred route's potential impact on local businesses and the economy.

Aurecon will be visiting local businesses to survey business owners, and will also be surveying shoppers in the local area. The information

collected from these surveys will help us to understand the potential impacts on local businesses and the community.

Q Why?

The survey results will form part of a socio-economic study that is being prepared as part of the project's Review of Environmental Factors (REF).

Transport for NSW is preparing the REF to meet its obligation under the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The REF will ensure that all potential impacts arising from the project to the environment and community are assessed and mitigated.

The REF will be placed on public display later in 2020 to obtain community and stakeholder feedback on the project and the potential impacts. Once the REF has been displayed and community feedback has been received, The REF will be finalised and submitted for environmental planning approval.

Q When?

Aurecon representatives will visit local businesses from Thursday 30 January to Saturday 1 February 2020 to complete the survey.

They will also be surveying shoppers at the following locations:

Friday 31 January 2020, 11am to 2pm

John Street between Woolworths and Coonabarabran Post Office (roaming)

Saturday 1 February 2020, 9am to 1pm

Woolworths Coonabarabran

Q. How were the businesses selected?

Aurecon carried out desktop research to select all businesses in the Coonabarabran town centre and those along the Newell Highway. We also consulted the Coonabarabran Chamber of Commerce and Warrumbungle Shire Council for input.

Q. Where does the information go?

The purpose of the business and shopper survey is to gain an understanding of how businesses operate and where their customers come from, so that we can determine the potential impacts the preferred option and associated works could have on the community and the local economy.

The survey results will form part of the REF for the project. The overall survey results will be available when the REF is published later this year, however individual responses will not be able to be identified.

Q. If I haven't been selected can I still take part?

Yes! All Coonabarabran businesses are welcome to take part. The survey is available at https://rmsnsw.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bK19Mhe0SjbChNj.

Aurecon will also be surveying shoppers in the town centre as part of this work.

Q. Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions about the survey, the preferred option or the project in general, please contact the project team by phone on 1800 741 636 or email newell.upgrade@rms.nsw.gov.au