

Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran, Frequently Asked Questions – November 2020

About the project

What is happening?

The community is invited to have their say on the proposed Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran

The NSW Government is providing \$11.5 million in funding towards planning for a proposed upgrade of the Newell Highway at Coonabarabran. The proposal includes constructing a new highway about eight kilometres long to the east of the existing Newell Highway alignment which runs through Coonabarabran's town centre. The proposal would extend north-south between the Newell Highway and Oxley Highway.

Transport for NSW has developed a concept design and prepared a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to determine the environmental and social impacts of the proposed bypass.

What is a Review of Environmental Factors?

An REF is an environmental assessment that is required as part of the assessment of activities needing approval under NSW legislation. An REF examines the significance of likely environmental impacts of a proposal and the measures required to mitigate any adverse impacts to the environment.

An REF is a publicly available document that provides information on a proposal, including its environmental impacts and mitigation measures.

Why is a bypass being proposed?

- Improve travel efficiency for all vehicles, in particular heavy vehicles through Coonabarabran
- Freight traffic is expected to increase along the Newell Highway
- Reduce conflict between freight vehicles, local and through traffic and vulnerable road users
- Improve amenity for the urban commercial area of Coonabarabran

What are the key features?

The key features of the proposal include:

- Construction of a Bypass
- New bridge over the Castlereagh River
- Newell Highway and Oxley High intersection upgrade to give priority to the Newell Highway.

What are the project benefits?

- Increase freight efficiency by improving the heavy vehicle access for PBS3 (a) high productivity vehicles (36.5 metre B-triples and Type 2 Road Trains)
- Improve travel time and reliability
- Reduce trucks traveling through the Coonabarabran town centre
- Improve traffic flow in Coonabarabran
- Improve the amenity of the retail district for shoppers, residents and workers
- Improve safety for motorists and pedestrians
- Reduce heavy vehicle noise and stock-created odour
- Remove conflicts between local traffic and heavy through vehicles.

Information for the community

How can the community provide feedback on the REF?

Transport for NSW will work with the community and stakeholders during the planning of Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran to understand issues and minimise potential impacts.

All community and stakeholder feedback on the project is welcome.

We will liaise directly with property owners impacted by the Newell Highway upgrade, as well as engaging with the broader community and other stakeholders.

What happens next?

Feedback on the REF will be considered and a Submissions Report and Community Consultation Report will be published. We will continue to keep the community updated as the project progresses.

Community information session

Staff from the project team will be available to answer your questions about the project via an online session held on December 15 – please visit “nswroads” on Facebook to register.

If you have questions or would like further information about the project, please contact us via the project's free-call number 1800 741 636 or via email newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Design consideration

What are the key design considerations for the project?

- Construction of a bypass suitable for high productivity vehicles
- Typical cross section 3.5m lanes, 2.0m shoulder, 1.0m wide centreline, 0.5m verge
- Optimised pavement design for whole of life performance
- Drainage structures suitable ARI 1 in 20
- Bridge structure over the Castlereagh River
- Posted speed limit of 110km/hr, with lower posted speeds where design needs to be optimised for safety
- Minimise direct access to the bypass
- Newell and Oxley Highway intersection upgrade to change priority to the Newell Highway

Newell Highway upgrade and other projects in the region

The NSW Government recognises the importance of the Newell Highway as the economic backbone for freight and livestock transporters, tourism operators, caravanners and holiday makers, emergency services, government, media and business owners. The NSW Government has invested \$500 million into upgrading the Newell Highway.

TfNSW will continue to work with the community and stakeholders, including the region's producers and agricultural companies, local business, freight and transport providers, to improve efficiency and safety in the region.

Construction

When would construction of the Newell Highway start?

The project is still in the planning stage. No construction timeline has been confirmed.

Contact us

For more information, please contact the project team on:

Phone: 1800 741 636

Email: newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au

More information is also available at nswroads.work/coonabarabran