

# Newell Highway and Mitchell Highway intersection upgrade

## Frequently asked questions – May 2019

### What is happening?

The NSW Government is investing \$20 million to upgrade the Newell Highway and Mitchell Highway intersection to improve safety and efficiency. This work is being undertaken as part of the \$195 million investment to build a better Dubbo.

This project was originally planned to be phase one of the New Dubbo Bridge project however after consultation with the community, it was clear this intersection was a high priority. It was then developed as an individual project and fast tracked following community feedback.

### Where are we now and what are the next steps in the project?

Roads and Maritime is currently planning for the Newell Highway and Mitchell Highway intersection upgrade. The design of the upgrade is now complete. It is expected that some early works will start later in 2019 and construction will start early to mid-2020. The project is expected to be completed in 2020, weather permitting.

There will be a series of activities between now and the start of construction, including utilities investigations and relocations, temporary pavement work, building demolition and finalising detailed design, including stormwater and traffic signal designs.

### What are the key features of the project?

The Newell Highway and Mitchell Highway intersection upgrade includes the following features:

- Traffic lights will replace the existing roundabout
- New pedestrian crossings on all four sides of the intersection, with foot ramps to improve wheelchair and pram access
- Intersection widening to allow for increasing traffic volumes
- Additional merge lane minimising parking loss at Victoria Street shops
- Relocation of underground service utilities and overhead power
- Safer turn paths for road trains (up to 36.5 metres long)
- New stormwater system to avoid flooding in high rainfall/storm event.

### What are the project benefits?

The Newell Highway and Mitchell Highway intersection upgrade will:

- Provide a highway intersection that allows safe and efficient movement of heavy vehicles up to 36.5m to the north, south and west
- Reduce congestion and travel times
- Improve safety by reducing conflict between local and through traffic and between vehicles and pedestrians and cyclists.

## **Have the businesses and residents around the intersection been consulted?**

Yes. In the early part of developing the project, members of the project team consulted with businesses and residents on each leg of the roundabout and advised the project was being developed.

Towards the end of 2018, meetings were held with those properties potentially affected by the project. In late 2018 consultation was undertaken with business about potential changes to parking.

By early 2019 the design had been developed enough that we were able to identify land that needed to be acquired for the project and confirm impacts to these properties. In January 2019 meetings were held with all owners of these properties. These meeting are continuing.

Roads and Maritime also committed to keeping all business around the intersection informed. Prior to commencing the display of the design, the project team consulted with all businesses on each leg of the roundabout, regardless of whether they were impacted or not.

## **What is happening to the parking in front of the Victoria Street shops?**

The parking in front of the Victoria Street shops is being retained with the exception of two spaces closest to the intersection. Roads and Maritime are attempting to acquire one more space which if successful, will mean a nett loss of one space.

## **There used to be lights, then you built a roundabout and now you are putting lights back in – why?**

Dubbo is growing rapidly, particularly West Dubbo. The current intersection is no longer able to accommodate the high volumes of traffic or the types of vehicles that use the intersection.

When the roundabout was constructed it was the right solution for that time and served the community well for many years. However installing signals at the intersection, with additional turning and through lanes, will allow for future growth of Dubbo, they will ease congestion and accommodate the longer, heavier vehicles that use the Newell Highway,

Lights will allow traffic to be controlled efficiently, adjusting to where the highest volumes are and working to keep traffic moving.

## **Why do we need to provide safer turn paths for B-triple heavy vehicles that are 36.5m long?**

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.

The Newell Highway Corridor Strategy was finalised in 2015, with the aim to provide freight, road users and local communities with a safer, more reliable and accessible road. One of the main objectives is making sure the Newell highway can accommodate the increasing numbers of Higher Productivity Vehicles (HPVs) with access points onto the highway and pavement quality works to ensure we can meet the growing demand.

The strategy also recognises it is important to balance these freight needs against broader community and environmental needs.

## **How will the community be informed about the development of the project?**

Roads and Maritime will continue to engage with the community as the project develops. The Building a better Dubbo campaign is focussed on providing the community with timely and accurate information about what is happening in Dubbo. Visit [rms.work/dubbo](https://rms.work/dubbo) to sign up for updates and to find out more about what is happening in Dubbo.

All community and stakeholder feedback on the project is welcome.

## **Drop in sessions**

We are holding a number of drop in sessions during the display period where teams from each project will be available to meet with the community, answer questions and provide more information.

For further information about our display sessions and where you'll find us, visit [rms.work/dubbo](https://rms.work/dubbo)

All concept plans and how you can give your feedback can also be found on the website.