

Gunnedah Second Road Over Rail Bridge

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is working with Gunnedah Shire Council and the community to identify a preferred option for a road bridge over the rail line in Gunnedah.

Background

The NSW Government has allocated \$16 million for a second road over rail bridge in Gunnedah that will address traffic congestion issues, and provide a Higher Mass Limit (HML) route for heavy vehicles.

With major coal development occurring in the Gunnedah basin, the length of coal trains has been increasing, causing extended delays at Gunnedah's level crossings. The existing bridge at Abbott Street is not suitable for use by HML vehicles.

RMS has engaged Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd (KBR) to assist in the development of options for the second road over rail bridge. The development of options has considered community feedback on the study area released in December 2012, and a wide range of engineering, environmental and social constraints in the area.

The objectives of the project are:

- Provide a grade separated HML route through Gunnedah.
- Improve local traffic efficiency.
- Improve road safety.
- Improve road transport productivity, efficiency and reliability of travel.
- Minimise the impact on the natural, cultural and built environment.
- Provide value for money.

Current status

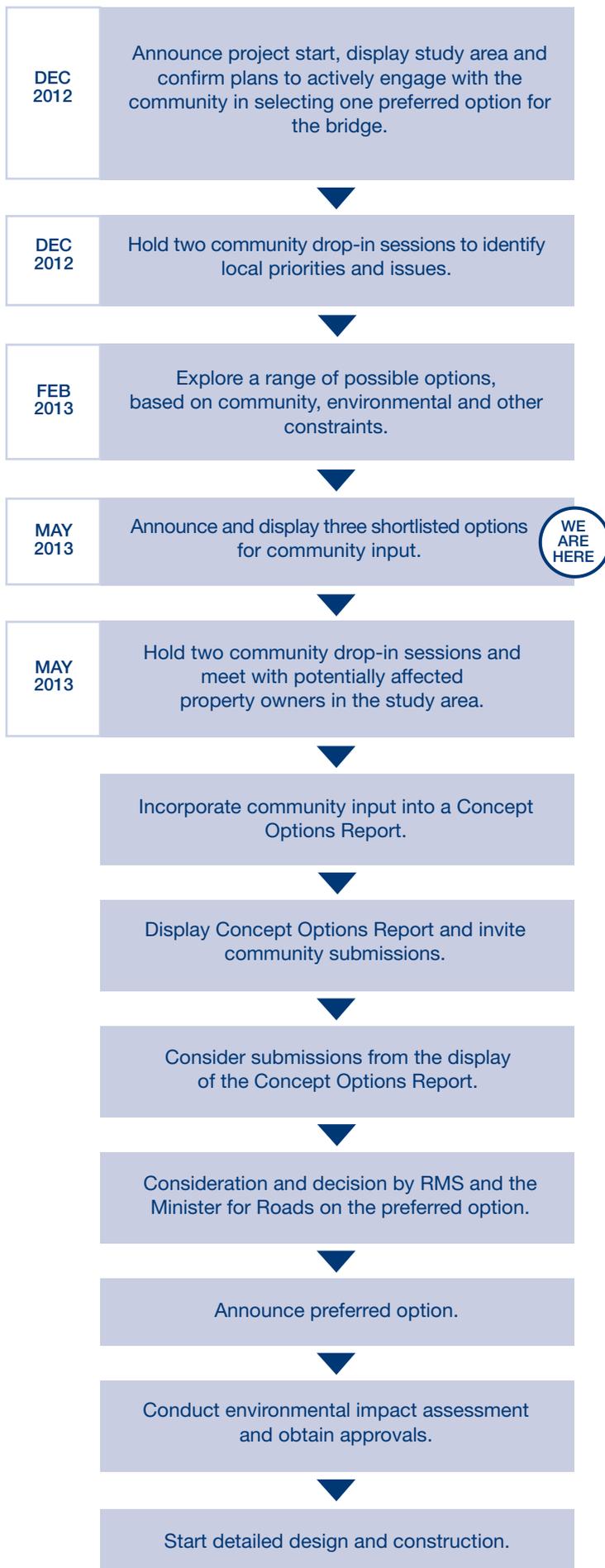
RMS and Gunnedah Shire Council held two community drop-in sessions in Gunnedah during December 2012. The sessions were attended by about 50 community members who talked to the project team and provided input regarding local priorities such as addressing traffic congestion, enhancing pedestrian safety, and minimising impacts on the community, local properties and businesses.

A wide range of possible bridge locations were considered, including those proposed by members of the community. Desktop studies were completed, examining potential impacts such as flooding, noise, traffic modelling, environment and heritage. These studies and community input were considered in order to shortlist the three preliminary options shown on the map within.

RMS is now seeking community input on the three preliminary options under consideration.

Further studies and field work will be undertaken to better understand the potential impacts of each of the three options. These studies and community input will be included in a Concept Options Report and will assist in selecting a preferred option. Community feedback will be sought on the Concept Options Report when completed later this year.

The process to identify a preferred option is shown overleaf.



Preliminary options

Three options have been shortlisted and are described below:

Option A

A new north/south bridge would be built in place of the existing New Street level crossing. The bridge would span from just south of Barber Street to the Oxley Highway roundabout, which would be raised. Vehicle access to New Street properties would be limited.

Option B

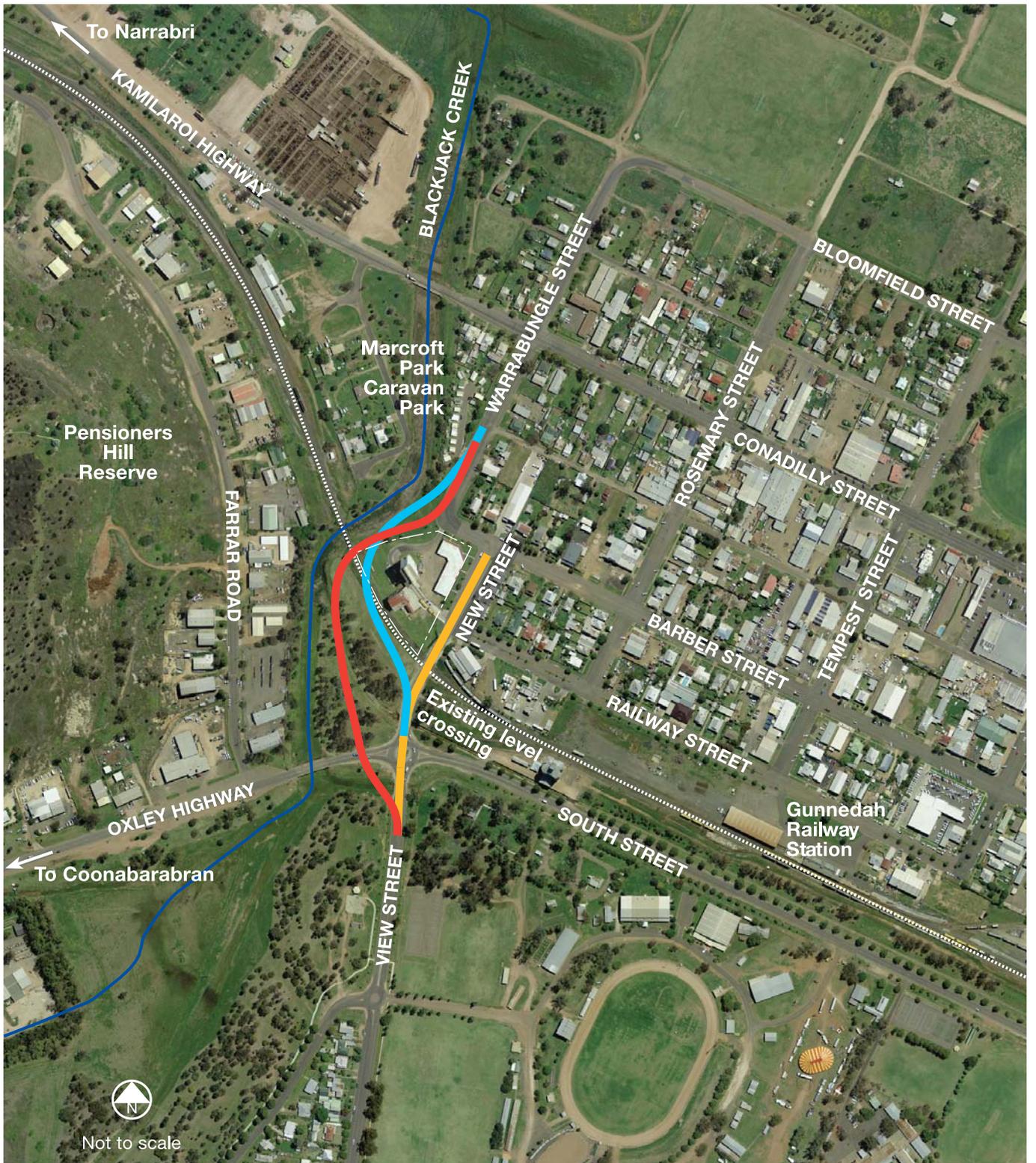
A new bridge would be built to the west of the Maize Mill to connect the Oxley Highway roundabout with Warrabungle Street, north of the Barber Street intersection. The bridge would start at the Oxley Highway roundabout and run close to the railway on its south side.

Option C

A new bridge would be built to the west of the Maize Mill to connect the Oxley Highway with Warrabungle Street, north of the Barber Street intersection. The bridge would start on View Street and make a wider arc to the west of the Mill.

RMS is committed to providing safe and accessible travel for all road users. Regardless of the option selected, the detailed design phase will consider pedestrians and cyclists.

The bridge will be designed to meet Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd (ARTC) guidelines, and comply with relevant environmental and planning legislation.



Preliminary options

- Option A
- Option B
- Option C
- Railway line
- Blackjack Creek
- Gunnedah Maize Mill property boundary

Ongoing community involvement

RMS values your input to help identify local constraints and issues and discuss the preliminary options.

The project team will be available at two community drop-in sessions to answer your questions and receive your input.

When: **Wednesday 22 May 2013**

Session 1: 11am until 2pm

Session 2: 4pm until 7pm

Where: **Gunnedah Town Hall**

Conadilly Street

Gunnedah NSW 2380

Project information will also be on display at the following locations:

Gunnedah Shire Council

63 Elgin Street

Gunnedah Shire Library

291 Conadilly Street

Gunnedah Motor Registry

387 Conadilly Street

www.rms.nsw.gov.au

One-on-one meetings have been offered to property owners within the study area.

Next steps

All the stakeholder and community input gathered will be collated and included in the Concept Options Report.

Copies of the report will be available online and displayed at the same locations listed opposite. Community feedback on the report will be welcomed.

For more information or to comment, please contact the project team at:

Phone: 1800 029 585 (toll free)

Email: secondroadoverrailbridge@kbr.com

Web: www.rms.nsw.gov.au

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