

Review of environmental factors



JUNE 2015

GUNNEDAH SECOND ROAD OVER RAIL BRIDGE



The NSW Government is funding the Gunnedah second road over rail bridge to improve local traffic efficiency and road safety. Roads and Maritime Services invites the community to provide feedback on the Review of Environmental Factors for the project.

In this community update:

- Map of proposed second road over rail bridge
- Summary of the Review of Environmental Factors (REF)
- Upcoming consultation activities.

The roundabout work is expected to take about nine months to complete (weather permitting) and will involve temporary road closures. Roads and Maritime is working with Gunnedah Shire Council to deliver this part of the project.

Current status

The preferred option for a second road over rail bridge (map over page) was confirmed in November 2014 following an extensive assessment of potential options and consultation with the community.

Since then, Roads and Maritime Services has progressed the concept design and published a REF for the proposed second road over rail bridge. The community is invited to provide feedback on the REF. Feedback will be considered as decisions for the project are made going forward.

The *Review of Environmental Factors* is available on the project website.

Early work

Work has started to build a new roundabout at the intersection of Conadilly and Warrabungle Streets as part of the project. The new roundabout was assessed under a separate REF and will improve traffic movements through the intersection and support Gunnedah's heavy vehicle route strategy.

Review of Environmental Factors

The REF assessed the potential environmental and social impacts of the proposal (summarised below). The assessment found the proposal would not significantly affect the environment or the community. The REF also describes measures that would be put in place to manage potential impacts. The community is invited to comment on the REF by 29 June 2015.

Biodiversity

An assessment of the biodiversity values within the project site was carried out. It identified a small area of koala feed trees and some threatened fauna species that may potentially occur within the area.

Overall, the project was assessed as unlikely to result in a significant impact on the ecological values within the area. This is because the project's design has been refined to:

- Minimise vegetation clearing
- Protect and retain a number of koala feed trees
- Avoid Blackjack Creek, therefore minimising floodplain impact
- Avoid the Wandobah Reserve.



Community consultation

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

When: 18 June 2015
4–7pm (session 1)
19 June 2015
9am – 12pm (session 2)

Where: Gunnedah Civic (Mooki Room)
83 Chandos Street, Gunnedah

There will be no formal presentation.

The *Review of Environmental Factors* will be on display at the following locations until 29 June 2015.

Gunnedah Shire Council
63 Eligin Street

Gunnedah Shire Library
291 Conadilly Street

Gunnedah Motor Registry
387 Conadilly Street

www.rms.nsw.gov.au

An electronic form will be made available on the project webpage for people that would prefer to submit comments online.

Please provide feedback by 29 June 2015.

Next step

Feedback on the REF will be considered and a submissions report published.

Subject to approval of the project, Roads and Maritime will complete detailed design and prepare for construction.

Contact us

For more information please contact the project team at:

Phone: 1800 029 585 (toll free)

Email: secondroadoverrailbridge@kbr.com

Web: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects

Post: Gunnedah second road over rail
bridge project
Reply Paid 633
Brisbane QLD 4001

To mail this feedback form first fold line A and then B so the Reply Paid address is on the outside. Seal with clear tape and mail (no stamps required) your completed form to the address below.

A

B



Gunnedah second road over rail project
Reply Paid 633
Brisbane QLD 4001

No stamp required if posted in Australia



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Indicative photomontage of the new Gunnedah second road over rail bridge. Subject to change during detailed design.

Traffic

The key objectives of a second road over rail bridge are to enable Higher Mass Limit (HML) freight vehicle access through Gunnedah, and to improve local traffic efficiency and road safety. The REF assessed traffic impacts and identified that the proposal would:

- Improve overall traffic efficiency in Gunnedah
- Eliminate delays at the Oxley Highway roundabout by the removing the New Street level crossing
- Improve road safety by removing the New Street level crossing
- Provide direct access into Barber Street from Warrabungle Street.

Heritage

The new bridge has been designed to minimise impacts to the Gunnedah Maize Mill. The refined design reduces impact by adopting an alignment that minimises the property acquisition area, and by employing urban design principles which enhance visual amenity. There is however a small area that would need to be acquired for the new bridge and some minor construction impacts. These impacts would not affect the heritage significance of the Mill. Roads and Maritime is liaising with the owners of the Mill to minimise these impacts.

Socio-economic

The proposed new bridge has been designed to minimise negative impacts on the local community and contribute to the long term connectivity and accessibility of the town. However, two residential properties would need to be acquired to build a safe intersection with Barber Street. Roads and Maritime is liaising directly with the affected property owners. The need for access to Barber Street, following the closure of the New Street level crossing, was a key concern raised by Gunnedah Shire Council and Barber Street businesses during community consultation in 2013 and 2014.

Seeking feedback from the community on the new bridge has been an important part of the proposal's development. Roads and Maritime will continue to liaise with the local community as the project progresses.

Construction

Building the new bridge would start after detailed design is completed. There would be temporary road closures during the road work. Roads and Maritime will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses.

The proposed second road over rail bridge confirmed in November 2014



Background

The second road over rail bridge would provide an unrestricted HML freight route through Gunnedah and significantly improve local traffic efficiency and road safety. The new route would replace the existing New Street level crossing which would be permanently closed as part of this project. This project is part of the Bridges for the Bush program which is a NSW Government commitment to improve road freight productivity by replacing or upgrading bridges across regional NSW.

A range of technical, environmental and social investigations and concept designs were undertaken to develop and assess the options for a second road over rail bridge. The local community as well as Gunnedah Shire Council, Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) and Transport for NSW were engaged throughout the process and provided helpful feedback. Previous feedback and Roads and Maritime's responses to each issue raised is summarised in the Community Submissions Report (November 2014) that is available on the Roads and Maritime project website.

The proposed second road over rail bridge

The new bridge for the second road over rail bridge would extend west of the Gunnedah Maize Mill from the Oxley Highway before joining Warrabungle Street. In addition to building a new bridge, the project would include the following:

- Upgrade of the Oxley Highway roundabout
- New roundabout at intersection of Warrabungle Street and Conadilly Street (already underway)
- Intersection into Barber Street from Warrabungle Street
- Shared path for cyclists and pedestrians.

Feedback form

Roads and Maritime is now seeking feedback on the *Review of Environmental Factors* for the Gunnedah second road over rail bridge.

Do you have any feedback on the Review of Environmental Factors for the proposed second road over rail bridge?

Do you have any other comments about the project?

Please provide feedback by 29 June 2015

Name

Organisation:

Postal address:

Suburb:

Phone number:

Email address:

Would you like to be added to our distribution list to receive email updates about this project? Yes No

