

Why this option of the Nowra Bridge project was chosen

What were the key objectives of the project?

-  Unlock freight and commercial opportunities by removing restrictions for heavy vehicles.
-  Provide a long-term solution that addresses traffic flow issues on the Princes Highway and connecting roads.
-  Future-proof access across the river when the old bridge comes to the end of its lifespan.
-  Deliver long-term traffic benefits to the local community while minimising impacts to the environment and cost.

We considered all options including a bypass, flyover and rail bridge

-  Surveys in 2013, 2014 and 2018 found 85 per cent of traffic crossing the bridge is local. This was verified by an independent review again in late 2018. This means if a bypass were built, the majority of traffic would continue to use the current crossing to access Nowra and would not solve local congestion issues or future issues caused by the existing southbound bridge reaching the end of its useful life.
-  Nineteen intersection options, including 11 flyover options, assessed highway and local road traffic performance and impact to cost, environment, heritage, residential properties, land use and future maintenance costs. The proposed design had the best balance of benefit and potential impacts. The impacts of a flyover option outweigh the benefits.
-  A rail crossing is up to five times more expensive than other options and an extended South Coast Rail Line is not part of Transport for NSW's 40-year strategy for transport infrastructure.

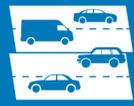
How did we assess all the options?

Issues	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Issues analysed/addressed	New four lane bridge, no intersection upgrade	New three lane bridge, at-grade intersection upgrades	New four lane bridge, at-grade intersection upgrades	New four lane bridge, grade separation on northern side of the bridge	New four lane bridge, grade separation on southern side of the bridge	New four lane bridge, grade separation both sides of the bridge
Highway travel time	Not assessed due to poor traffic performance	Not assessed due to poor traffic performance	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Annual hours travelled on the network	Not assessed due to poor traffic performance	Not assessed due to poor traffic performance	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Heritage impacts			✓✓	✓	✗✗	✗
Environment impacts			✓	✗	✗✗	✗
Residential property impacts			✗	✗✗	✗	✗
Property and land use impacts			✓✓	✗	✗	✗
Maintenance costs			✓	✗	✗	✗
BENEFIT vs IMPACT score			1	2	4	3

Options 1 and 2 were not assessed further due to poor traffic performance

Key: ✓✓ = Better ✓ = Good ✗ = Poor ✗✗ = Worst

How does the proposed design address the key objectives?

-  The proposed design removes height and weight restrictions, unlocking freight opportunities in the Shoalhaven.
-  The four-lane bridge and at-grade intersection upgrades improve traffic flow on the highway and connectivity between local roads for the next 30 years.
-  A new bridge at this section of the highway would replace the south-bound bridge as it comes to the end of its life span. A bridge at this location also caters for the 85 per cent of traffic crossing the bridge with their start or end point in Nowra.
-  The proposed design provides the best value for money when comparing the expected benefits against the anticipated impacts.

We listened to the community and have decided to keep the existing southbound bridge for likely use as a pedestrian path. In 2013, we carried out a survey and 79 per cent of respondents told us they wanted to keep the old bridge.

Recent improvements to the design

Based on your recent feedback, improvements have been made to the design providing additional safety for pedestrians and motorists and reduce impacts during construction. Check out rms.nsw.gov.au/NowraBridge to see these improvements.

How are we addressing the other options?

-  A bypass will be further explored if and when there is a substantial increase in traffic that passes through Nowra without stopping in the town.
-  Traffic modelling found flyover options are not required until there is a substantial increase in traffic at this section of the highway. The current design would allow for future planning of a flyover if and when the network requires it.
-  A rail bridge is not being considered.