



Transport for NSW

Tumut intersection upgrade

Community update | December 2020



A project to build a roundabout at the Snowy Mountains Highway intersection with Gocup Road will address identified safety and traffic efficiency concerns at this important junction for the Tumut community and all road users.

Overview

Following a strong push from the community to make further changes to improve safety at the Snowy Mountains Highway intersection with Gocup Road, Transport for NSW engaged the Centre for Road Safety to investigate the best possible safety outcome for the community.

Options investigated as part of the review were traffic lights, closing Capper Street, raising the intersection, closing Gocup Road and moving the intersection.

A roundabout was determined to be the best solution.

Why a roundabout?

Of all the options considered, a roundabout provided the highest safety performance and best addressed the community's specific safety concerns.

Roundabouts help make intersections safer by:

- reducing vehicle speeds, making it easier to choose a safe gap in traffic
- minimising the impact angles of approach, leading to lower severity crashes
- having significantly fewer conflict points
- directing motorists in one direction
- reducing the risk of being seriously injured by up to 85 per cent.

Studies have shown roundabouts are safer than traffic lights, improve traffic flow and are more efficient for heavy vehicles.

Safety is our priority

Transport for NSW has already made significant improvements to the intersection including adding advanced warning signs, vehicle-activated signage reducing the speed limit on Snowy Mountains Highway and audio tactile line marking.

Eliminating road fatalities in regional communities is a major priority for the NSW Government. Together with the recent improvements, a roundabout will help reduce the number of crashes at the intersection, improving safety for residents and passing motorists alike.

In the past five years (2015–2020), there have been 19 crashes at this location, resulting in two deaths, five serious injuries, 13 moderate injuries, and four minor injuries.



Significant safety improvements have already been carried out at the Snowy Mountains Highway intersection with Gocup Road, including the installation of vehicle-activated signage

We will continue to work with Snowy Valleys Council on this important safety upgrade to ensure council and community concerns are addressed.

Key benefits

The intersection upgrade will:

- improve safety for all road users
- improve traffic flow and efficiency, particularly heavy vehicles
- improve connections to regional communities
- include walking paths and pedestrian access.

Key features

The intersection upgrade is expected to include:

- non-mountable roundabout, capable of carrying A-double and B-double heavy vehicles
- improved intersection visibility
- improved pedestrian paths.

Why not move the intersection?

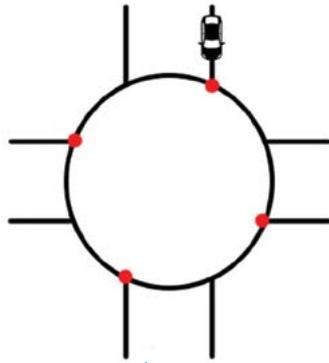
Moving the intersection to bypass the current location was one of the options considered by the Centre for Road Safety during their review earlier this year.

This would involve closing the Gocup Road leg to simplify the existing intersection.

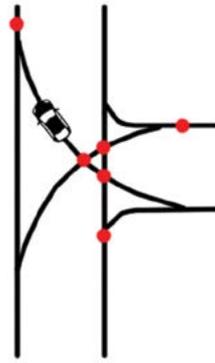
However, moving the intersection and closing the existing Gocup Road connection would only create new safety issues and possible collision points at each of the new intersection locations.

Potential collision points explained

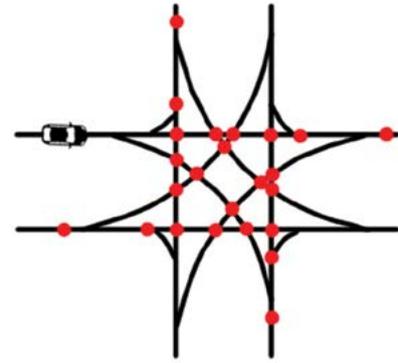
Roundabouts have fewer identified collision points than other intersection treatments, including T-intersections and four-way intersections. Collision points are located in or on the approaches to an intersection where vehicle paths merge or cross, introducing possible crash points.



Roundabout: 4 potential points



T-intersection: 6 potential points



Four-way intersection: 24 potential points

Along with a relocated intersection, a new T-intersection on the new alignment of Gocup Road would be required to provide access to properties.

Both these additions would increase the number of potential collision points (as described in the above diagram) leading to a reduced safety outcome compared to the proposed roundabout at the Snowy Mountains Highway and Gocup Road intersection.

An alternate intersection location would also take longer to build due to property acquisition, complex environmental requirements and possible changes to the highway.

As safety is the key driver for this project, a roundabout at the current location is preferred.

We will keep the community updated as the project progresses and will contact you early next year for feedback to help guide us around pedestrian accesses and community requirements.

Project stages



*Timing is subject to project approvals and weather.



In October, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole announced a roundabout as the preferred safety treatment at this intersection



As part of the Tumut intersection upgrade, Snowy Mountains Highway will be realigned to the west to improve sight distances for traffic approaching the intersection

Next steps

We understand the community has safety concerns at this intersection and we are prioritising installation of the roundabout.

With possible impacts to Tumut wetlands, areas of heritage significance and nearby properties, a large amount of planning is required.

We are working as quickly as possible on developing the project, including concept design, environmental studies, utility adjustments, property acquisition and investigations.

We will keep the community updated as the project progresses and will contact you early next year for feedback to help guide us around pedestrian accesses and community requirements.

We're here for you

We will continue to liaise with the community and stakeholders throughout the project.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our project team:

 (02) 6923 6525

 south.west.projects@transport.nsw.gov.au

 www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/tumut-intersection-upgrade

 Tumut intersection upgrade
PO Box 484
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

 If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on (02) 6923 6525.



A roundabout has been determined to be the best safety solution for the Snowy Mountains Highway and Gocup Road intersection



November 2020
20.422



Privacy Transport for NSW ("TfNSW") is subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 ("PPIP Act") which requires that we comply with the Information Privacy Principles set out in the PPIP Act. All information in correspondence is collected for the sole purpose of assisting in the delivery of this project. The information received, including names and addresses of respondents, may be published in subsequent documents unless a clear indication is given in the correspondence that all or part of that information is not to be published. Otherwise Transport for NSW will only disclose your personal information, without your consent, if authorised by the law. Your personal information will be held by Transport for NSW at 90 Crown Street, Wollongong. You have the right to access and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.