

Transport for NSW

Nelson Bay Road upgrade Williamtown to Bobs Farm

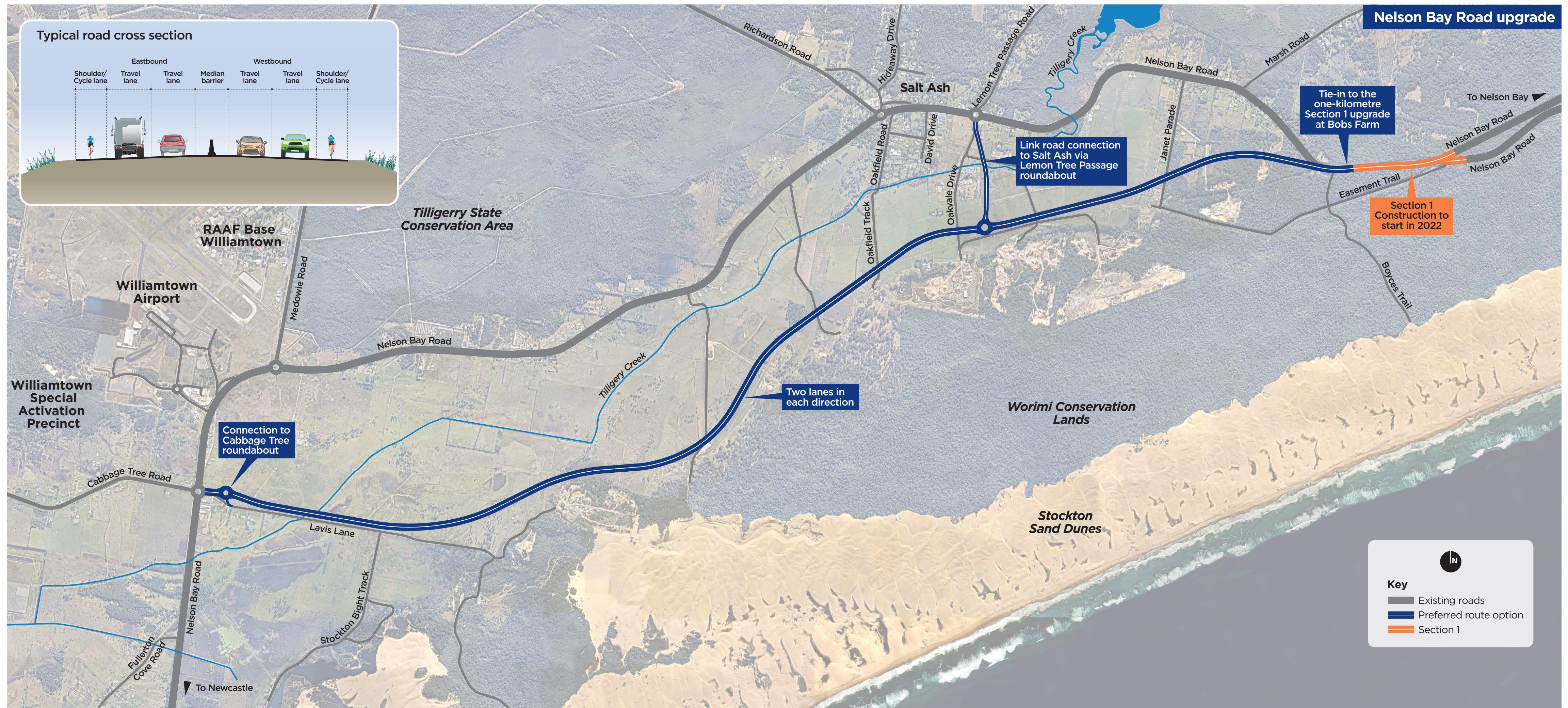
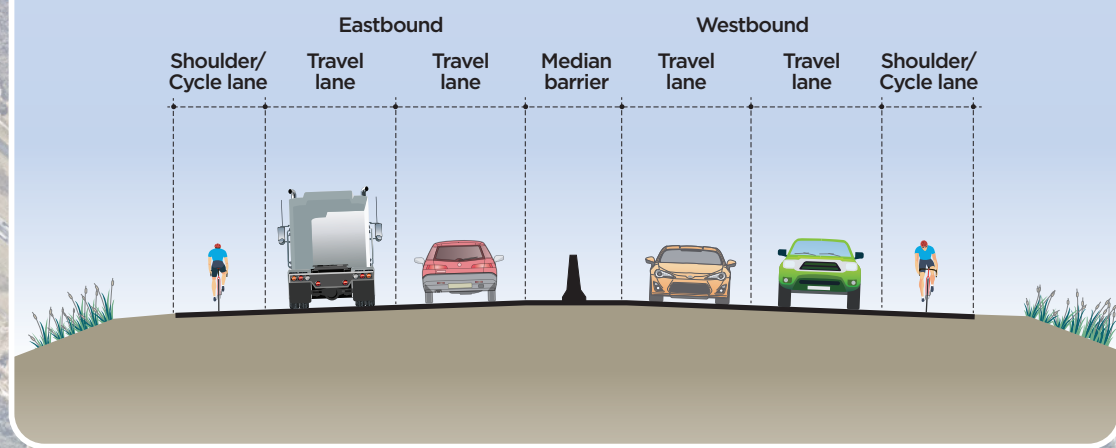
Project update – Preferred route



The NSW Government is progressing plans to upgrade Nelson Bay Road from Williamtown to Bobs Farm. The project would provide safer road conditions, reduce travel times for all road users, improve transport efficiency and support tourism and local industries as a major economic driver in the Port

Stephens area. Following community consultation, Transport for NSW (Transport) has selected a preferred option which includes a fully off-line route that extends from Bobs Farm to Cabbage Tree Road at Williamtown.

Typical road cross section



Key

- Existing roads
- Preferred route option
- Section 1



Project Background

The 43-kilometre-long Nelson Bay Road corridor provides a major road connection between Newcastle, Newcastle Airport, the Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) base at Williamtown and Nelson Bay on the Tomaree Peninsula. Nelson Bay Road is used by approximately 25,000 vehicles per day and this increases during peak holiday periods.

The NSW Government is investing \$275 million to improve safety and travel times on Nelson Bay Road. The upgrade of Nelson Bay Road is being delivered as a program of work. Early work on the project to upgrade the intersection of Nelson Bay Road and Medowie Road and the intersection of Nelson Bay Road and Lemon Tree Passage Road has been completed.

Construction is expected to start early next year on Section 1 of the Nelson Bay Road upgrade, which involves duplicating Nelson Bay Road from 900 metres east of Marsh Road at Salt Ash to 1.9 kilometres east of Marsh Road at Bobs Farm, directly adjoining the already duplicated section of Nelson Bay Road through the sand hills. This section of work is not impacted by the route selection for the remainder of the project.

Transport is currently planning to upgrade Nelson Bay Road from Williamtown to Bobs Farm as the next priority for the corridor and has developed a preferred route option.



Preferred route development

Transport carried out multiple investigations to identify the preferred route to upgrade Nelson Bay Road from Williamtown to Bobs Farm.

Our initial investigations considered a number of routes for the upgrade, with further investigations identifying three shortlisted route options. Selection of the preferred route option considered social, environmental and economic factors as well as community and stakeholder feedback received during two public display periods in 2019 and 2020.

The three shortlisted route options were comparatively assessed against a range of criteria, including:

- Road safety standards
- Traffic efficiency
- Environmental and heritage impacts
- Property and community needs
- Construction and design benefits (constructability)
- Delivery cost and value for money.

The Preferred Option Report which outlines the identification and assessment of options in more detail is available at nswroads.work/nelsonbayroad

The preferred route includes:

- a fully off-line route that extends from Bobs Farm to Cabbage Tree Road at Williamtown.
- two lanes in each direction, divided by a median and a mid-way link road connection to Salt Ash via Lemon Tree Passage roundabout
- a mostly 100km/h posted speed limit with on-road provision for cyclists
- a roundabout intersection to connect the current Nelson Bay Road to the proposed new route
- Tie-in to the one-kilometre Section 1 upgrade of Nelson Bay Road at Bobs Farm that is scheduled for construction commencing in early 2022
- Dedicated connection to Cabbage Tree roundabout at the southern end
- Suitable access for sand mining operations.



Key Benefits of the preferred route after benefits

Key benefits of the preferred route include:

- Significant traffic performance improvements for the network
- Travel time savings of up to six minutes for motorists during peak periods
- A safer alignment with fewer intersections and direct access points
- A mostly 100km/hr speed limit
- A road that is future proofed to integrate with future projects and supports the development of the Williamtown Special Activation Precinct
- Best value for money
- Improved amenity for residents and communities
- Opportunity for placemaking and active transport improvements for communities along the existing corridor, particularly in the Salt Ash area.



Community consultation

We recognise the preferred route for the Nelson Bay Road upgrade is important to the community.

Since the release of our initial on-line and off-line route options in 2019, we have engaged with many community members, residents, business owners and stakeholders who live and work in and around our project area. We have listened to better understand your concerns and have incorporated your feedback and suggestions into our design where possible.

Design refinements have been made as a direct result of consultation and reflect our values of engaging with the community, because we know it leads to better outcomes for stakeholders.



Design refinements made as a direct result of consultation with the community

We also held multiple route option selection workshops with key stakeholders and used a comprehensive assessment approach to identify the preferred route. The workshops brought together representatives from Transport, Port Stephens Council, Williamstown Special Activation Precinct and a wide range of technical specialists to review the proposed route options.

Next steps

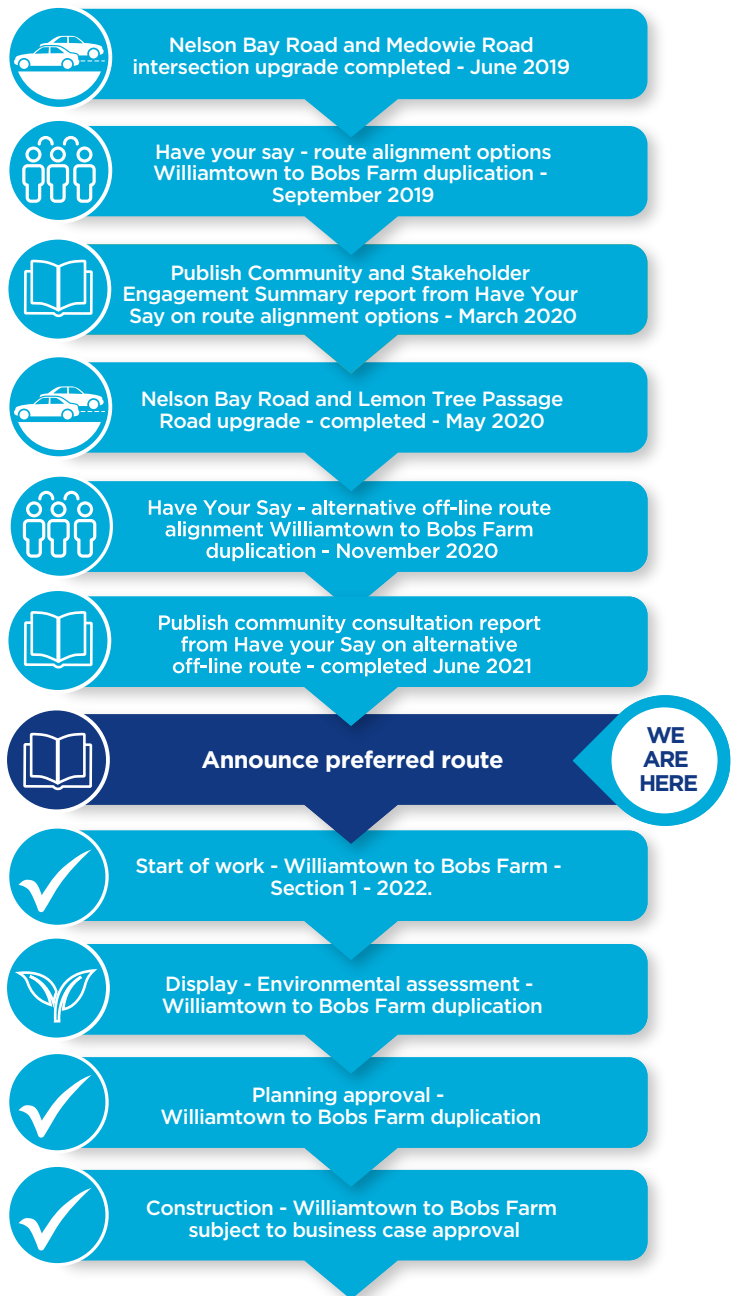
Transport will continue to work with key stakeholders and the community to further refine and prepare the concept design and environmental assessment for the Nelson Bay Road upgrade from Williamstown to Bobs Farm.

The environmental assessment will include more detailed information about the design features, potential benefits and impacts, and will be displayed for community feedback.

Contact us:

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Program timeline



Improved traffic flow and journey times



Improved pedestrian and bicycle safety



Enhanced public transport services



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