

New England Highway bypass at Singleton

Preferred route option

December 2016

The NSW Government has committed \$92 million towards the Singleton bypass under Rebuilding NSW.

Roads and Maritime Services has identified the preferred route option which involves building a new section of highway west of Singleton, starting near Newington Lane and rejoining the New England Highway north of McDougalls Hill.

This update provides more information about the preferred route option and next steps for the project.

Background

The New England Highway forms part of the National Land Transport Network and is a major freight and commuter route between Newcastle and the Upper Hunter.

The highway passes through Singleton and forms the main road access through the town and to the town centre. More than 25,000 vehicles a day travel on the highway through Singleton and across the Hunter River.

Work on an options assessment to identify a preferred bypass route started in November 2014. Three shortlisted route options were placed on display for community feedback in late 2015.

This feedback, along with technical investigations and cost benefit analysis, has been used to select the preferred bypass route.

The technical investigations included flood modelling to help understand the potential flooding impact of each option.

More information about the options, as well as the investigations and studies carried out, is available in the preferred option report which can be viewed at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects

The preferred route corridor will be included in Singleton Council's Local Environmental Plan, reserving the land for future construction of the bypass.

Timing for construction of the bypass has not been confirmed and would be subject to approval and funding availability.

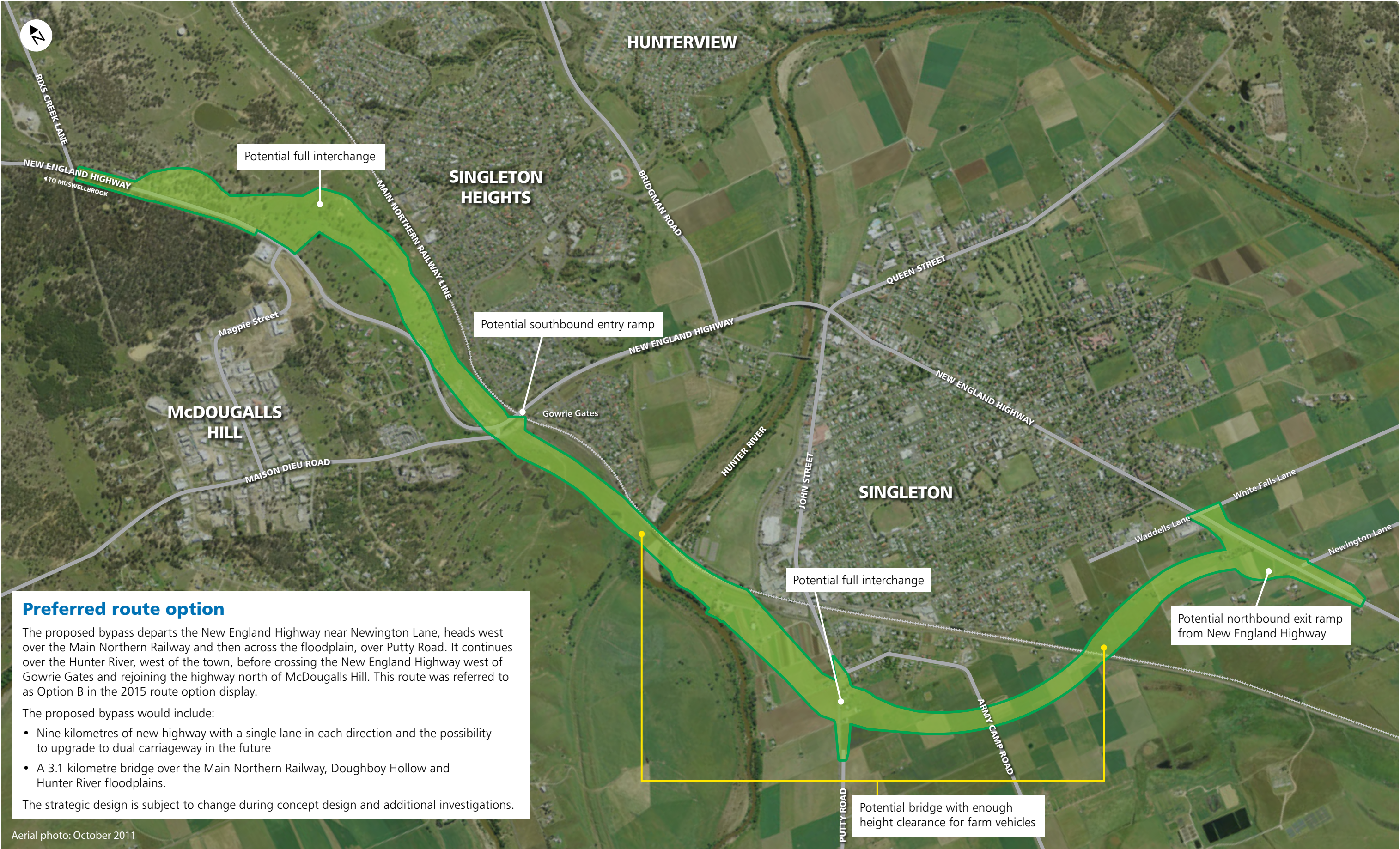
The NSW Government has allocated \$1.5 million in 2016–17 to progress planning.

Benefits

The bypass would:

- Improve travel times for freight and general traffic along the New England Highway through Singleton
- Improve the Singleton town centre amenity
- Improve safety for all road users at this known pinch point
- Reduce heavy vehicle freight traffic through Singleton.

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Involving the community

We will work with the community and stakeholders during the planning process to understand issues and minimise potential impact.

Opportunities to give further feedback will be provided at the concept design and environmental assessment stage.

What happens next?

The preferred route corridor will be included in Singleton Council's Local Environmental Plan, reserving the land for future construction of the bypass.

We will carry out consultation with affected landowners and key stakeholders, including Singleton Council. Subject to approval, the project would move to the concept design and environmental assessment stage.

Further information

More information about the options, investigations and studies carried out is available in the preferred option report which can be viewed at rms.nsw.gov.au/projects

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Project development process



*Timing subject to approval and funding availability.



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