

# New England Highway – Singleton Bypass

## Project Update - Concept Design and Review of Environmental Factors

December 2019



Artist impression of the Singleton bypass northern connection, looking south.

### Submissions invited on the concept design and review of environmental factors (REF) for the Singleton bypass.

The NSW Government has committed \$92 million towards the Singleton bypass under Rebuilding NSW. The bypass will improve travel times, freight efficiency and safety for local and interstate motorists.

A concept design and environmental assessment have been prepared for the bypass to identify potential impacts and mitigation activities. The community and stakeholders are invited to provide feedback by **5pm on Sunday 1 March 2020**.

### Project background

The New England Highway is part of the inland Sydney to Brisbane National Land Transport Network and the primary route connecting the Upper Hunter with Maitland and Newcastle.

The highway passes through the centre of Singleton and carries around 26,000 vehicles, including more than 3700 heavy vehicles, each day.

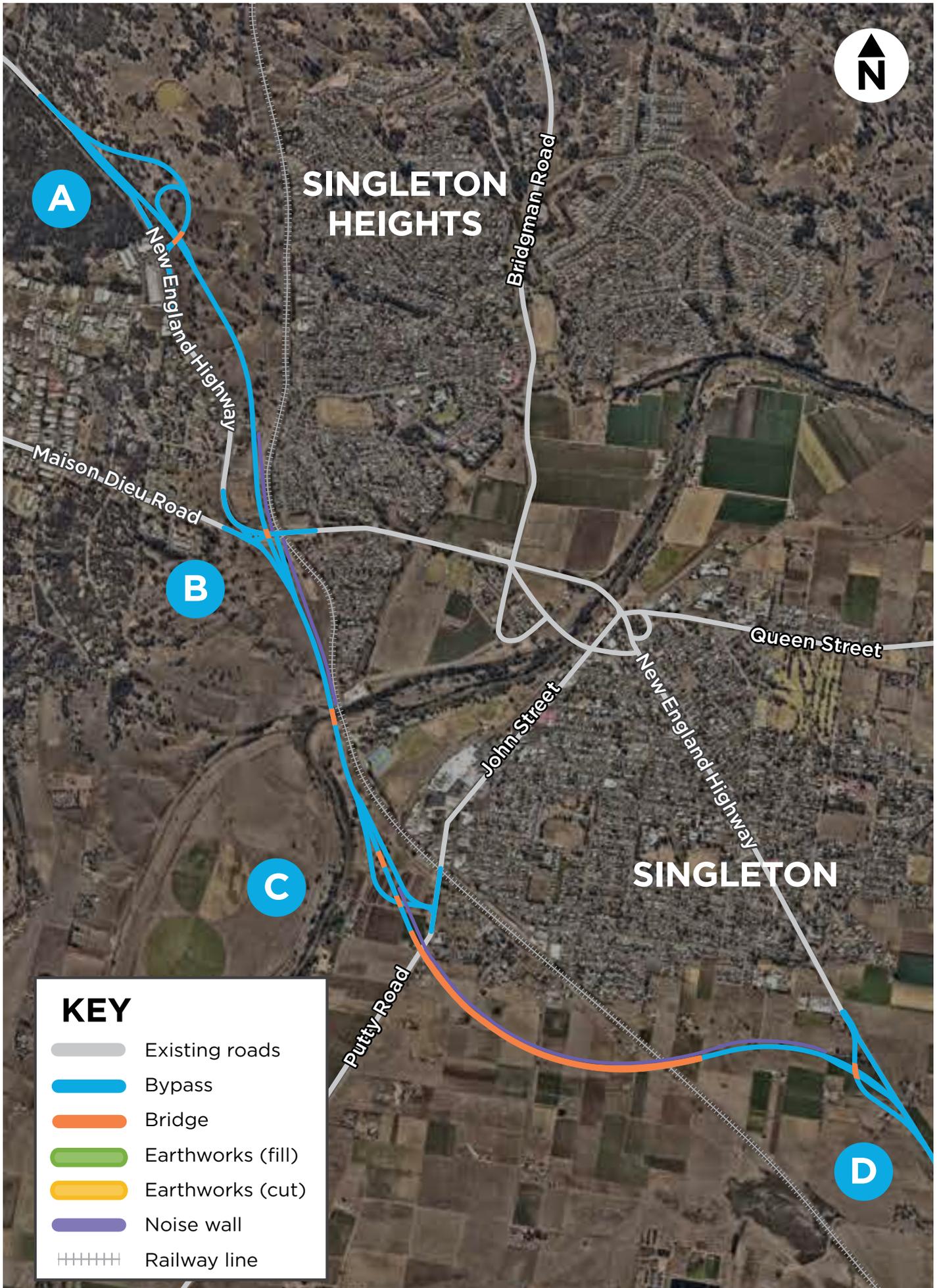
Traffic volumes are predicted to increase in the next 25 years. The planned bypass of Singleton would improve the movement of freight and journeys for current and future traffic demands.

A preferred option for the bypass was announced in 2016 and involves building a new section of highway west of Singleton across the floodplain, starting near Newington Lane and rejoining the New England Highway north of McDougalls Hill.

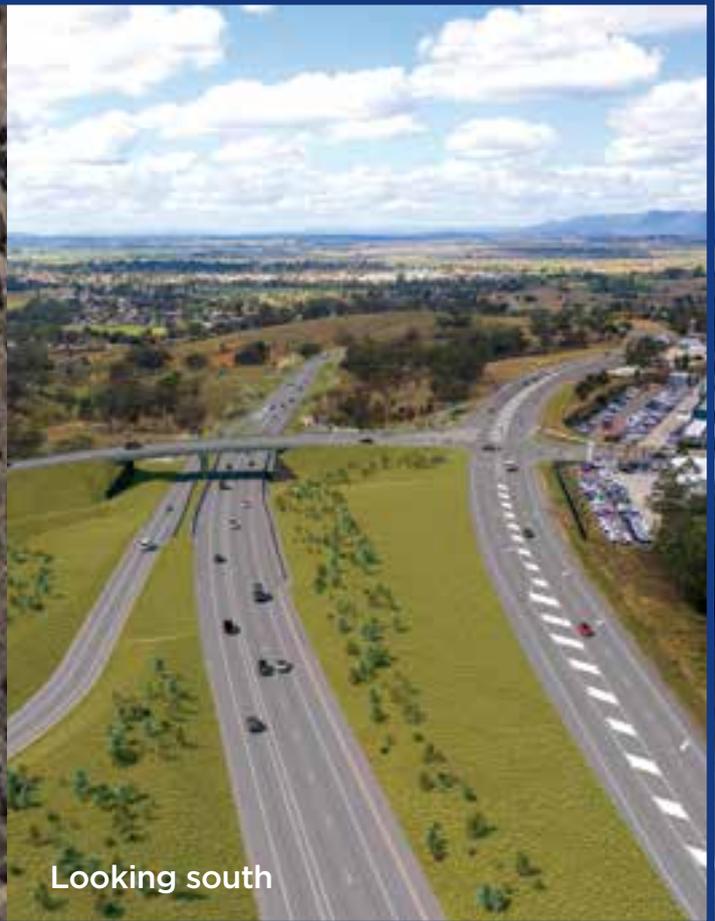
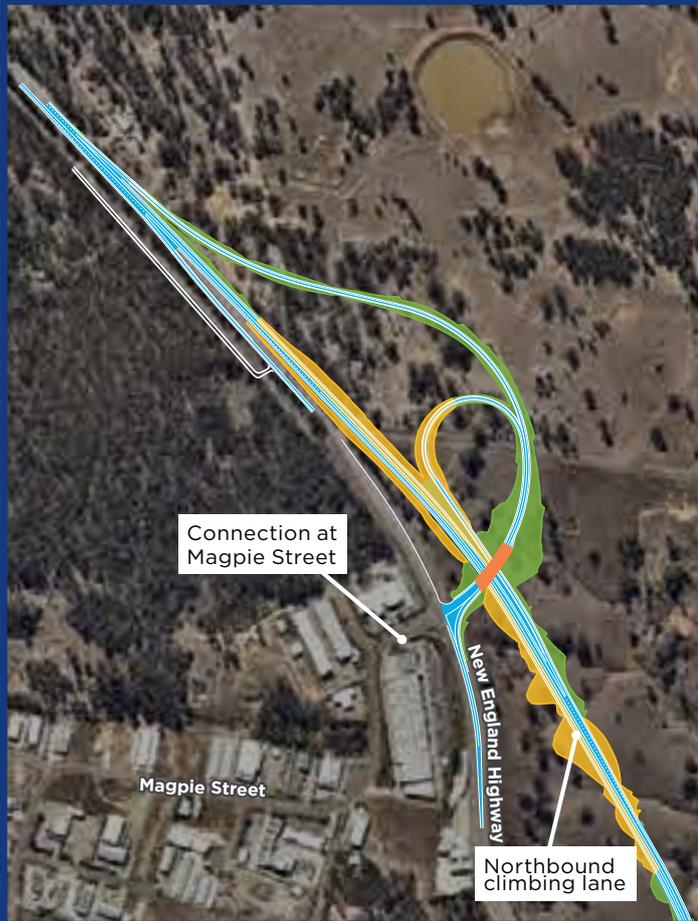


Visit our new  
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[rms.work/singleton](https://rms.work/singleton)  
to find out more  
about the REF.

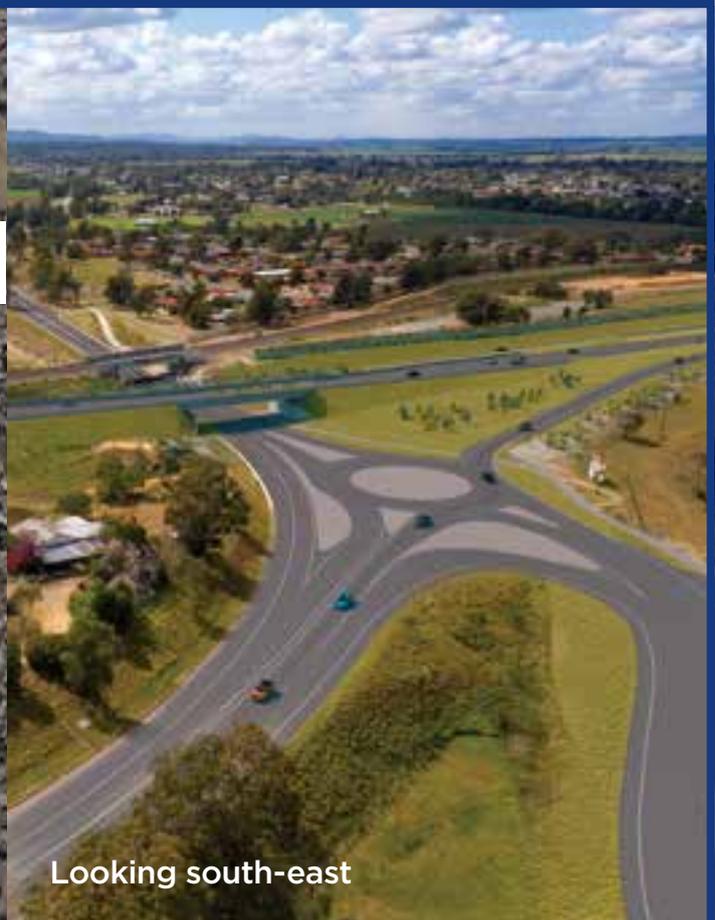
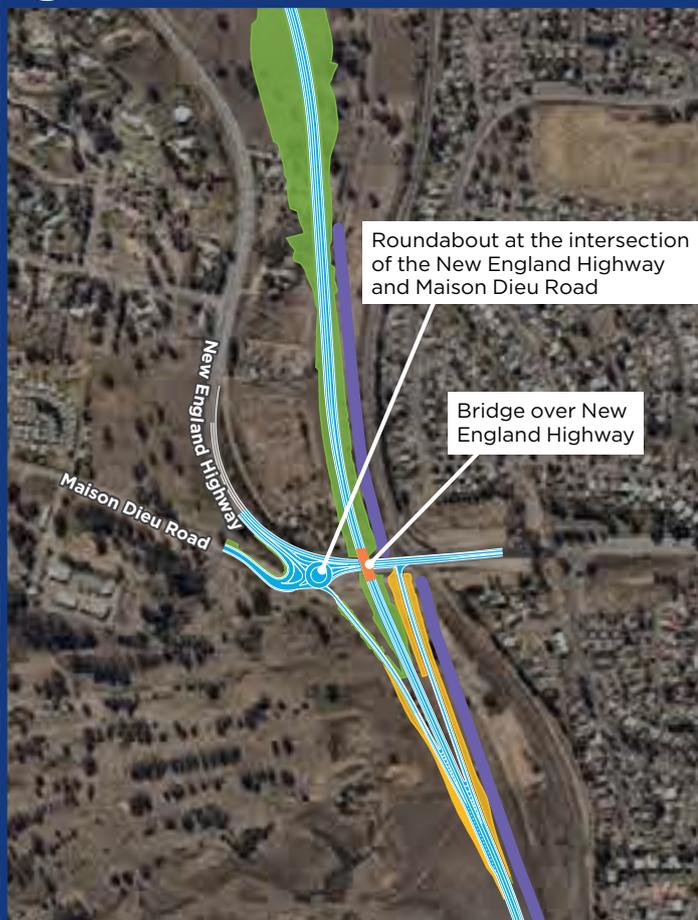
# New England Highway bypass of Singleton



## A Northern connection



## B Gowrie Gates connection



## C Putty Road connection



Looking south

## D Southern connection



Looking north

## The proposal

The proposed Singleton bypass would include:

- about eight kilometres of new highway with a single lane in each direction
- a 1.7 kilometre bridge over the Main Northern Railway, Doughboy Hollow and Hunter River floodplains
- connections at the southern and northern ends of the bypass and at Putty Road and Gowrie Gates.

## Alternative route options considered

Transport for NSW carried out multiple investigations to identify the preferred route option for a New England Highway bypass of Singleton.

Our initial investigations considered multiple corridors for the bypass, with subsequent investigations considering three shortlisted route options.

Selection of the preferred route option took into account social, environmental and economic factors as well as community and stakeholder feedback received during a public display period in 2015. When considering these factors, the preferred route was identified as the most suitable option.

## Key Benefits

The proposed bypass would:

- improve traffic flow and travel times for freight and general traffic along the New England Highway travelling through Singleton
- improve safety through Singleton town centre by reducing traffic including heavy freight
- improve the amenity of the Singleton town centre by removing significant amounts of through traffic.

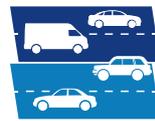
## Review of Environmental Factors

Transport for NSW has prepared a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to determine the potential environmental and social impacts and proposed mitigation measures for the Singleton bypass.

The REF is made available for community members and other stakeholders to review and submit their comments and questions. Each submission received through the REF process would be considered and would assist the planning and delivery of the project.

The REF explains the proposed method to construct the bypass and addresses how the work will be managed, including the proposed methods used to minimise environmental impacts on:

- the local community through traffic, access, noise and vibration
- flora and fauna
- soils and water quality
- socio-economic
- flooding.



### Ease congestion

and deliver better, more reliable trips



### Improve safety

on the existing highway



### Heavy vehicle reduction

through town centre



Motorists will save about  
**6 minutes**  
in travel time



Bypass  
**up to 5 sets**  
of traffic lights



Remove about  
**15,000 vehicles**  
per day from town centre

## Have your say

Transport for NSW is inviting feedback from the community about the Singleton bypass concept design and REF.

There are a number of ways you can get involved, including visiting an information session, commenting on the design via the interactive portal or by calling or emailing the project team.

**Submissions close on Sunday 1 March 2020 at 5pm.**

## Community information displays

To provide an opportunity for the community to view the concept design and REF, staffed displays are being held at the Quest Hotel in Singleton.

You are invited to drop in at any time during these sessions and speak with members of the project team.

**Thursday 30 January 2020**

10.30am–1.30pm

**Thursday 30 January 2020**

4pm–7pm

**Thursday 6 February 2020**

10.30am–1.30pm

**Thursday 6 February 2020**

4pm–7pm

**Tuesday 11 February 2020**

10.30am–1.30pm

**Tuesday 11 February 2020**

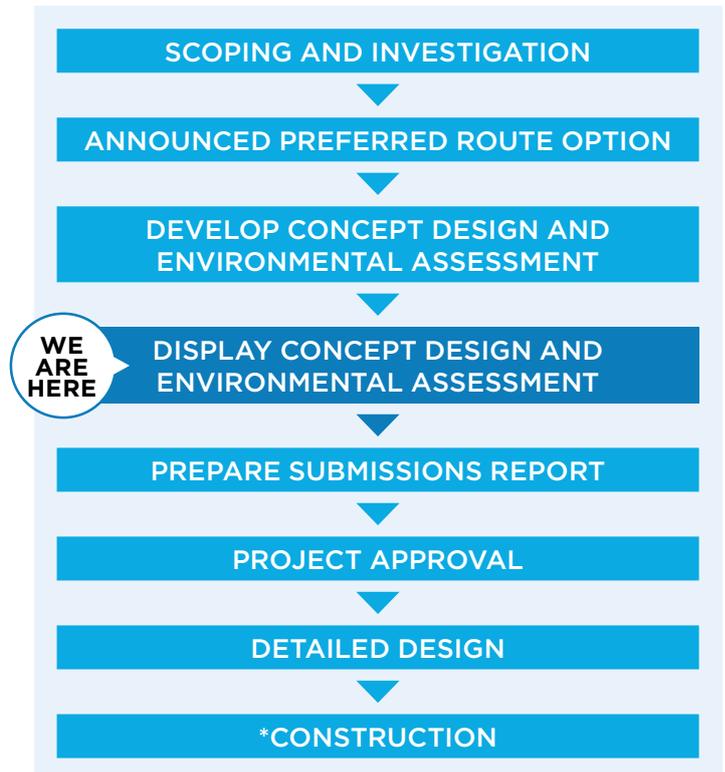
4pm–7pm

## Next steps

After the submission period for the REF closes, a report responding to submissions will be drafted and shared with the community.

We will consider all feedback received during the display period in the next stage of the project.

## Next steps



\*Timing for construction of the bypass has not been confirmed and is subject to approval and funding availability.

## Contact us

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

 1800 991 254 (toll free)

 [singleton.bypass@rms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:singleton.bypass@rms.nsw.gov.au)

 [rms.work/singleton](http://rms.work/singleton)

 Joel Rosendahl,  
Transport for NSW,  
Locked Bag 2030 Newcastle NSW 2300



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 991 254.



December 2019

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