

Transport for NSW

Bruxner Highway Ballina Road intersection

Community update



The Bruxner Highway / Ballina Road intersection

The Bruxner Highway is located in Northern NSW and provides a key movement corridor between Lismore and Ballina, linking with the Pacific Highway. The NSW Government is providing \$5 million to fund vital road and safety improvements along the Bruxner Highway, including an upgrade to the Ballina Road intersection at Alstonville.



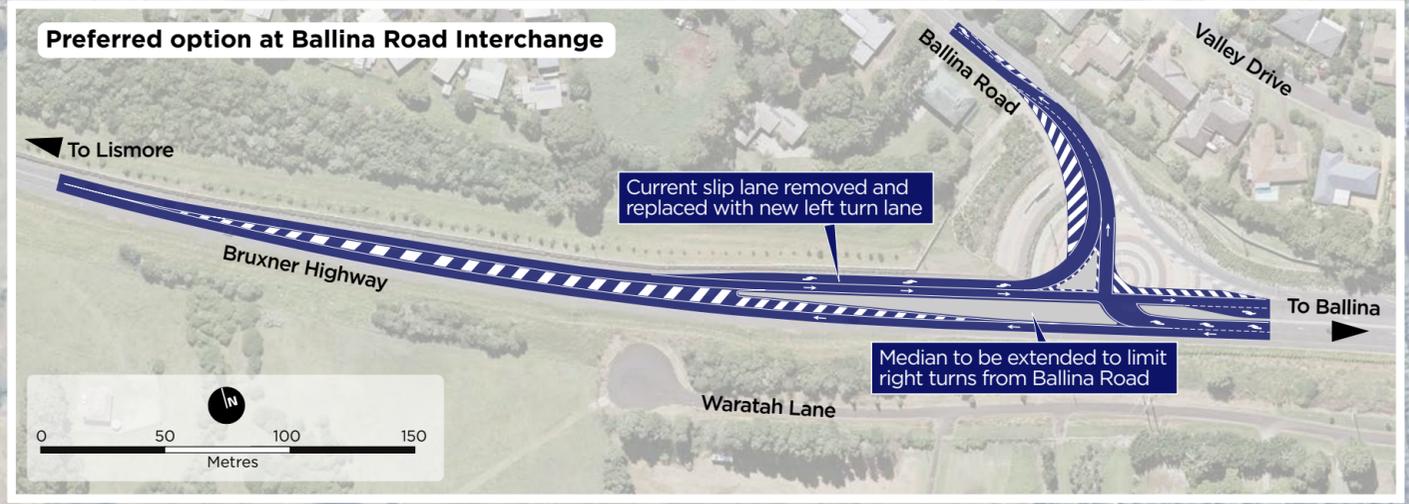
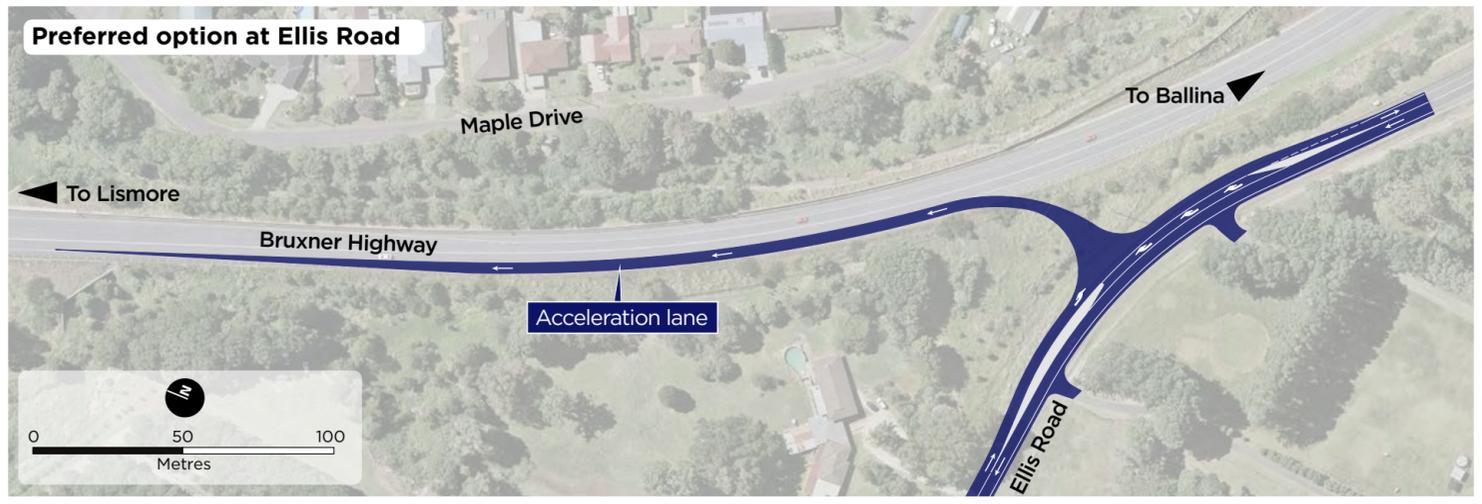
Preferred option

Based on our investigations, our preferred option utilises the existing Wardell Road overpass, connecting to a westbound on-ramp at Ellis Road and safety improvements at the Ballina Road intersection. These include:

- A new left turn lane from Bruxner Highway onto Ballina Road.
- A wider median to further separate oncoming traffic.

Advantages of our preferred option include:

- Permanently removes the right turn out of Ballina Road that has resulted in two fatal crashes.
- Has minimal environmental impacts, including no impacts to nearby waterways or properties.
- Has no travel time impacts to vehicles using the Bruxner Highway.
- Short construction duration and minimal impacts to traffic during construction.
- Within available funding allocation.



Background

In 2010, the \$90 million Alstonville bypass was completed, replacing the old highway which ran through the main street of Alstonville. At the eastern end (Sneaths Road) and western end (Ballina Road) of the project, at-grade connections were built to connect back into Alstonville.

While the project provided significant benefits - including faster travel times, reduced traffic congestion and better pedestrian access and safety within Alstonville and Wollongbar - the community has raised concerns about safety at the Ballina Road intersection, given fatalities have occurred there.

In 2018, minor improvements were made to the intersection including lengthening the eastbound merge lane, building a separated left turn lane and placing a temporary ban on right turns from Ballina Road onto the highway between 3-6pm.

In March 2019, in response to the community's concerns, the NSW Government committed \$5 million to further improve safety at the intersection, specifically looking at including an on-ramp for westbound traffic using the Bruxner Highway heading towards Lismore. This proposal would involve a relatively short connection from Ellis Road to the Bruxner Highway, and provide grade separation for the westbound traffic by using the existing Wardell Road overbridge.

Since then Transport has been carrying out investigations and exploring potential options to improve safety at the intersection.

Work to date includes constraints mapping and initial technical investigations, including potential environmental impacts, to understand key advantages and disadvantages of the options. Our work has found that major upgrades to Ballina Road intersection are not required at this time. The best safety outcome for this intersection is to remove the main conflict points, i.e. the right-hand-turns at the intersection by utilising existing infrastructure which can be delivered with funding that is currently available.

Criteria

Based on our investigations, we have identified building an on-ramp at Ellis Road and implementing a range of safety improvements at the Ballina Road intersection as our preferred option. Options developed were based on the five criteria listed below and are summarised on this page.

- **Road safety:** Reduce likelihood and severity of crashes.
- **Environment:** Reduce Environmental impacts, adverse impact to wider community.
- **Traffic efficiency:** Maintain overall network efficiency, Minimise delays to highway traffic.
- **Constructability:** Impacts to normal operations during construction, complexity.
- **Cost:** Funding, cost comparison, utility disturbance, whole of life costs.

Benefits

When comparing options against the criteria, the preferred option showed many benefits. These included:

- Improving safety at the Ballina Road intersection
- Minimal environmental impacts
- No travel time impacts to Bruxner Highway motorists
- Fitting with the long term planning for Bruxner Highway
- Within available budget



An extra 54 trips in the morning and 24 trips in the afternoon will move through Alstonville roads



Out of the 54 additional local trips only 15 in the morning and 13 in the afternoon will travel on Alstonville's main street



Safer and more reliable journeys for the local community



Environmental impacts investigated

Have your say

Community and stakeholders are invited to comment on the option outlined in this update. You are encouraged to have your say so we can understand your concerns. Transport values consulting and engaging with the community because we know it leads to better outcomes for stakeholders. The community is invited to provide comment by Friday 12 November 2021.

The community can make comment via

 1800 653 092 (toll free)

 region.north@transport.nsw.gov.au

 nswroads.work/alstonville

 Grafton Regional Office
PO Box 576
Grafton NSW 2460

 Completing the online survey at yoursay.transport.nsw.gov.au/alstonville



Next steps

Feedback received from the community will be considered to help us finalise our plans for the intersection. More information will be provided to the community and stakeholders as the project progresses.



This document contains important information about Transport projects in your area. If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call Transport Projects on 1800 653 092. The interpreter will then assist you with translation.