

Improvements to Lismore road network Upgrade of Ballina Road (Bruxner Highway) and Molesworth Street intersection



The existing intersection at Ballina Road (Bruxner Highway) and Molesworth Street, Lismore

The Bruxner Highway is a key movement corridor for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists and plays a vital role in facilitating movement through Lismore while connecting the city to Ballina and Casino. Transport for NSW has been planning improvements along the full length of the Bruxner Highway and has developed a comprehensive Bruxner Highway corridor strategy. The next step in this strategy is upgrading the Ballina Road (Bruxner Highway)/Molesworth Street intersection in Lismore.

Background

In 2019, Transport for NSW committed \$6 million to upgrade Ballina Road (Bruxner Highway) at Dawson Street in Lismore. Since then, a number of technical assessments and safety investigations have been carried out in partnership with Lismore City Council as part of planning the improvements.

The technical assessments found that upgrading the Ballina Road/Dawson Street intersection would not improve current delay and travel times, while the safety investigations found the Dawson Street intersection had the least crash history between

Wyrallah Road and Hollingsworth Creek Bridge. Based on these investigations and the level of funding currently available, installing traffic signals at Molesworth Street intersection is considered the best short term solution to ease congestion and improve local access, connectivity and safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

This update provides details on the concept design for the upgrade at Molesworth Street intersection and invites the community to provide feedback on the proposed concept design.

Molesworth Street intersection upgrade

The concept design was drafted with an aim to achieve the following objectives:

- Ease congestion at the intersection to reduce travel times
- Improve local access and traffic efficiency
- Provide more and safer opportunities for pedestrians to cross Ballina Road (Bruxner Highway)
- Complement future planning for the Bruxner Highway through Lismore.

To achieve these objectives, the following key elements were included:

- Increasing the number of lanes to include dedicated turning lanes
- Adding 'storage' lanes for vehicles stopped at the intersections
- Signalised pedestrian crossings
- Maintaining footpaths.

Benefits

The benefits of this design compared to other options we considered include no impacts to Heritage Park, maintaining the existing fence between Heritage Park and the road, the removal of fewer car parks and reduced costs due to avoiding the retaining wall on the bridge.

The project team recognises the importance of Heritage Park to the community and has modified the concept design to avoid any impact to the new post and rail fence and footpath between Heritage Park and the road.

Signalising this intersection has efficiency and pedestrian benefits, as well as the advantage of providing gaps in westbound highway traffic, which should help to improve the efficiency of the Union Street roundabout.

Impacts

Impacts of the design include:

- **Car parks** – the number of car parks on the northern side of Bruxner Highway will be reduced due to the addition of the turning lanes. The removal of these car parks will result in increased traffic efficiency on the highway. Some car parks might be reduced from the western end of Bounty Street but we will avoid that if possible.
- **Vegetation** - no trees will be removed from Heritage Park but some trees which are currently in the road reserve between the park and the road will be removed.

Further design considerations

We are continuing work on the design so as to reduce its impacts and improve its benefits. The main issues we are reviewing are:

- **Car parking** – we are looking at ways we can minimise the loss of car parks
- **Traffic lanes** – we are reviewing the lane configurations to see if the proposed dedicated lanes can be reconfigured to further improve traffic efficiency
- **Vegetation** – we are investigating how to minimise impacts to trees on the road reserve between Heritage Park and the road and replacing trees which need to be removed.

Your feedback will help with these considerations and to improve the design.

Have your say

Transport for NSW is calling for feedback on the proposed concept design. Feedback can be provided by:

- Emailing us at region.north@transport.nsw.gov.au. Please include 'Molesworth Street Design Feedback' in the subject line.
- Completing the online survey at yoursay.transport.nsw.gov.au/molesworth
- Sending a letter to
Molesworth Street Upgrade Project Team,
Transport for NSW, PO Box 576, Grafton
NSW 2460

Please submit feedback by **Friday, 6 August 2021**.

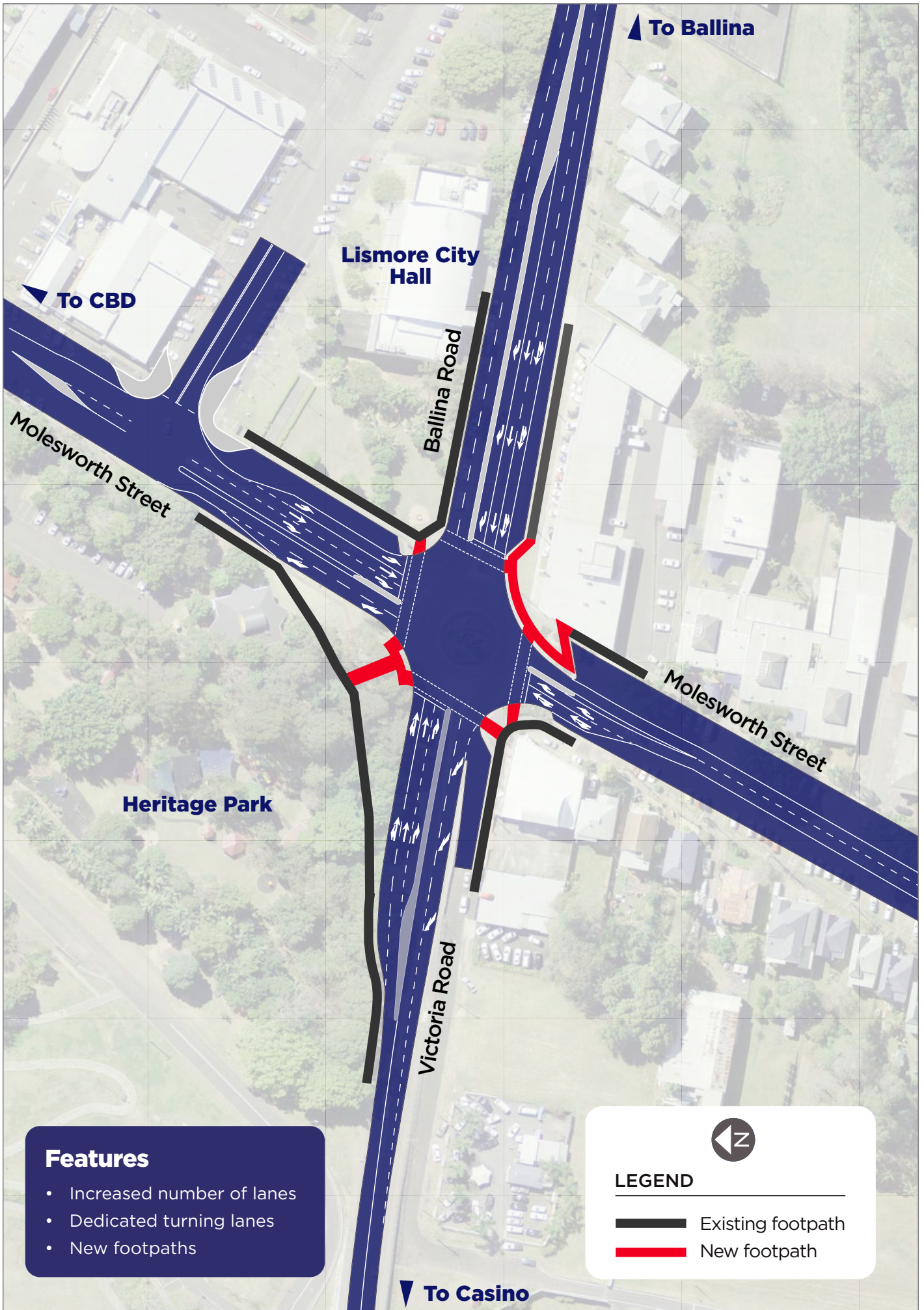
Information is also available at <https://nswroads.work/molesworthstreet>



Better and more reliable trips for people, businesses and freight



Easing congestion and improving safety



Features

- Increased number of lanes
- Dedicated turning lanes
- New footpaths



LEGEND

-  Existing footpath
-  New footpath

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Other Bruxner Highway improvements

The Molesworth Street intersection upgrade in Lismore is a part of the wider planning initiative for the whole of the Bruxner Highway.

In Lismore, changing the Wyrallah Road roundabout to traffic signals has been identified as a high priority, but it will be a medium term solution due to its complexity and costs. Transport and Lismore City Council are working together to plan for an upgrade of the Wyrallah Road intersection.

Other projects being developed include a left turn slip lane on the eastern approach to the Union Street/Bruxner Highway roundabout, to improve efficiency of the roundabout; and the widening of Hollingsworth Creek Bridge to four lanes. These improvements are being planned as a staged strategy where the benefits of one upgrade help with the operation of another.

Pedestrian connectivity

Transport has begun investigations to improve pedestrian connectivity across the Bruxner Highway between Whyralla Road and Molesworth Street. This will include surveying the community to better understand how and where you are crossing the Bruxner Highway. We'll provide more details as these investigations progress.

Improvements between Wollongbar and Goonellabah

Transport has been carrying out a number of preliminary investigations to improve safety and travel times on the section of Bruxner Highway between Wollongbar and Goonellabah. Planning includes duplicating and realigning the road. A number of options are being looked at and once more information is available we will invite the community to provide feedback on the options.

Overtaking lanes between Casino and Lismore

Transport is also looking at a number of options to improve safety along this section of the highway. This includes providing additional overtaking opportunities at a number of locations. Transport will provide more information to the community as this plan develops.

Ballina Road intersection at Alstonville

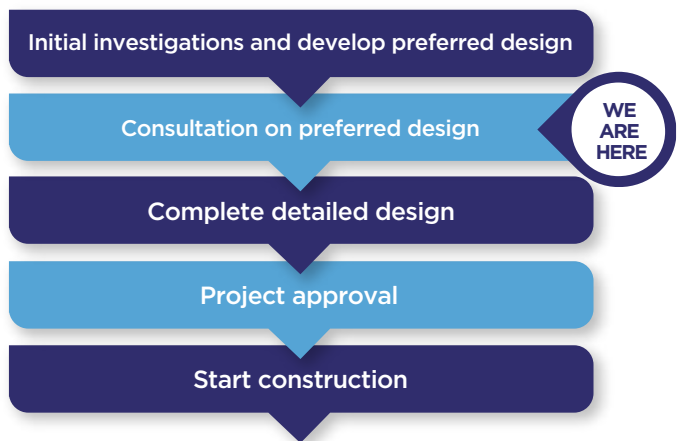
In March 2019, the NSW Government committed \$5 million to further improve safety at the intersection. Since then Transport has been carrying out investigations and exploring options. Once this work is finalised we will invite the community to view and comment on the option developed for this location.



Next steps

All feedback received will be passed to the project team to consider as part of developing the project.

We will also continue to work with Lismore City Council to develop this project and a funding program to upgrade other intersections identified in the traffic modelling. We will work closely with Council to provide an integrated transport planning approach for the city, and keep the community updated.



Initial investigations and develop preferred design

Consultation on preferred design

WE ARE HERE

Complete detailed design

Project approval

Start construction

Contact us:

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

☎ 1800 653 092 (business hours)

@ region.north@transport.nsw.gov.au

✉ Transport for NSW PO Box 576
Grafton NSW 2460



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