

Barton Highway FAQ June 2020

Questions	Answers
Where is the Barton Highway located?	The Barton Highway is about 52 kilometres in length, connecting the Hume Highway near Yass and the surrounding rural and residential areas to the ACT. The highway plays a strategically significant role at a national and local level. It forms one part of the Sydney-Canberra-Melbourne road corridor, allowing freight movements between the three cities. On a local level, the highway connects the townships of Yass and Murrumbateman in NSW and Hall in the ACT; and surrounding rural areas to employment, health and education resources in Canberra.
How is the upgrade being funded?	The Australian and NSW governments have each committed \$50 million over four years to upgrade the Barton Highway to improve driver safety, ease congestion and boost freight productivity. The funding will be used to fund investment priorities nominated in the <i>Barton Highway Improvement Strategy 2017</i> , which includes duplicating the highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman, as well as future staged upgrades.
Has further funding been committed?	A further \$100 million of Australian Government funding was announced for the Barton Highway in the 2018/19 Federal Budget in May 2018. The announced funding was under the Australian Government's Roads of Strategic Importance initiative. The duplication business case, which has been forwarded to the Australian Government, will provide guidance as to where the additional \$100 million will be best directed.
Why is the Barton Highway being upgraded?	<p>The Barton Highway is being upgraded to improve road safety. The upgrade will improve journey reliability, ease congestion, improve driver safety and boost freight productivity.</p> <p>The vision for the Barton Highway between the ACT border and the Hume Highway over the next 20 years is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide safe and reliable commuter access to Canberra • provide an alternative access route to Canberra • support key freight movements between western and southern NSW and the ACT driving economic growth • cater for the mix of through, local and tourist traffic along the corridor • improve safety and pedestrian and cyclist access for Murrumbateman village • create vibrant regional spaces as part of <i>Future Transport 2056's</i> 40-year vision for the future of transport.
What is the benefit to our customers?	<p>The Barton Highway upgrade aims to keep people safe on roads, enhance tourism, drive economic growth in the region and create vibrant regional spaces. Its main benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved safety on the highway • better access on and off the highway • greater highway traffic capacity • more reliable travel times • improved freight movement • safe and reliable commuter access to Canberra from Yass and Murrumbateman • easier access to essential services, employment, health care and education opportunities • improved pedestrian and cyclist safety and access in Murrumbateman • safer bus stop locations.
What is being funded?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • duplication of the Barton Highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman • concept design and environmental assessment for future duplication of the Barton Highway • development of a strategic business case for future duplication of the whole length of the Barton Highway • safety work including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ improved clear zones (complete) ○ improved bus stop locations (in progress) ○ Intelligent Transport Systems installation (in progress) ○ improved delineation and signage (complete) ○ improved access for vulnerable road users in Murrumbateman village (in progress)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ upgraded intersections (in progress) ○ road safety behavioural campaigns (ongoing) ○ monitoring and maintaining bridges and culverts (ongoing) ○ reviewing incident management plans (ongoing).
When will the upgrade be completed?	Initial strategic assessment began in November 2017. The first stage of duplication, from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman, is expected to start towards the end of 2020 and be completed in 2023, weather permitting.
Why have there been delays?	<p>We have been busy behind-the-scenes preparing for the duplication of the Barton Highway. There are numerous legislative responsibilities that must be met before construction can begin including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the property acquisition process including consultation with affected property owners • various investigations including geotechnical work, surveying and environmental assessments to inform the reference design • public exhibition of the review of environmental factors (REF) and opportunities for the community to provide feedback • engaging a construction contractor to finalise the road design.
What is complete?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a majority of safety improvements including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ removal of roadside vegetation, line marking and signs updates, shoulder widening, bridge barrier upgrades, installation of a safety barrier and continued monitoring of bridges and stormwater structures • initial investigations for the Intelligent Transport Systems or electronic messaging • specialist reports for the review of environmental factors including the contamination report, noise and vibration report, traffic and access impact assessment and the socio economic impact assessment • the Hillview drive intersection upgrade, which was completed in October 2019, to create more reliable and safer travel for all road users • the registration of interest was announced on 28 October 2019 and begins the contact procurement for tenders for the duplication of the Barton Highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman
What is happening now?	<p>Submissions report</p> <p>The Barton Highway upgrade: Duplication of the Barton Highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman review of environmental factors was displayed for community comment from Monday 24 February to Friday 27 March 2020.</p> <p>A total of eight submissions were received. In response to submissions, Transport for NSW has revised the proposed intersection configuration at Kaveney's Road to allow a right turn into Kaveney's Road.</p> <p>The main issues raised in the submissions relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • objections to the proposed intersection configuration and property access with proposed alternatives • request to delay property acquisition due to Coronavirus • comments about lack of planning and approach for the proposal • suggested measures for biodiversity management • concerns about weed control measures during and after completion of the proposal concerns about increased noise and/or fumes level at properties as a result of the proposal <p>A submissions report summarising the comments, responses, changes to the proposal and details of environmental measures and safeguards is now available at: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/barton-highway.</p> <p>Registration of interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the registration of interest to design and construct the duplication was announced on 28 October 2019 and we are expecting to award the tender in mid-2020. <p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concept plans for bus stop improvements in Murrumbateman are complete and will be further reviewed by the project team • we will be asking for community feedback on proposed improvements to pedestrian and cyclist access in Murrumbateman village, as well as bus stop improvements along the highway • intersection upgrades at Gooda Creek Road and Vallencia Drive are now under way

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bus stop improvements at Euroka Avenue, Gooda Creek Road and Vallencia Drive are now under way. <p>Business case</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the strategic business case addresses the future duplication of the Barton Highway and has been delivered to the Australian Government and can be viewed or downloaded at: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/barton-highway. <p>Electronic messaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> three electronic message boards are currently being installed to improve road user safety and journey planning these boards provide road users with real-time information about road delays and traffic incidents, while also providing fog warnings to warn motorists CCTV cameras are also being installed to help our teams manage traffic incidents and monitor conditions
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What is a submissions report?	A submissions report summarises comments received from the community during the review of environmental factors display period. The report also responds directly to the issues raised and notes any changes to the proposal stemming from the community's feedback. The report can be viewed or downloaded at: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/barton-highway .
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Duplication

Why is the duplication starting from Hall and not Murrumbateman or Yass?	This section was identified as the priority for duplication as it has higher traffic volumes and a higher crash rate than other sections. It will also meet the growing transport demands and ease congestion approaching the Canberra region. Duplication of the highway will ensure safer and more reliable journeys for almost 13,000 road users who use the Barton Highway daily.
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Will my property be acquired?	We have contacted all impacted property owners that are affected by property acquisition for the duplication from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman. We are carrying out investigation work which will inform the design of the proposed upgrades. As the design progresses, we will confirm the extent of the area to be acquired with the relevant property owners.
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What will be the impact to traffic during construction?	Work involves building a new northbound two-lane road next to the existing highway. Traffic impacts to the existing highway during construction are yet to be determined; however, temporary closures of traffic lanes, changes to accesses at intersections and driveways, and reduced speed limits would be likely at times. We will advise road users of changed traffic conditions during construction through a range of mediums including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> electronic message boards with real time updates media releases and traffic alerts updates to our webpage social media posts LiveTraffic updates direct contact where necessary.
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What will be the impact on native animals in the area?	Transport for NSW takes its responsibility to the environment seriously. A review of environmental factors (REF) was on display for community feedback from Monday 24 February to Friday 27 March 2020. An REF assesses the impact of construction activity on natural and cultural heritage within the project area. We have identified vulnerable flora and fauna, significant cultural locations, and conducted a range of studies on the environment to best protect the area around the Barton Highway duplication zone. We will work with the constructor to develop an environmental management plan and implement the recommendations from the REF, where possible, to limit environmental impact.
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What will be the noise impact to residents?	The results of noise impact studies can be found in the project REF at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/barton-highway
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Property

Why did I receive a letter?	As part of this duplication planning, we requested access to your property to carry out investigations that could include identifying archaeological artefacts, engineering survey, geotechnical test pitting and sampling, potholing to locate utilities, collecting contamination inspections, noise monitoring, drainage, environmental and other field investigations as needed. Investigations will involve a number of people entering your property on foot or by car, with equipment, to carry out this work. The ground will be reinstated where pits and holes have been dug. We will contact you a minimum of 24 hours before we need access to your property.
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Why do I need to fill out a property access agreement form?	The property access agreement form will help us understand your needs when accessing your property. It will help us reduce disturbance to you or your property and ensure that we address any special considerations or conditions of entry.
How do I return the property access agreement form?	If you agree to provide access for the investigations you can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fill in the property access agreement form and return it in the reply paid envelope send an email to the Barton Highway upgrade project team on barton.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au call 1800 931 250 to complete the form over the phone.
Is there any compensation provided?	Our project team work closely with businesses, residents and property owners that are affected by field investigations to identify any potential impacts as early as possible and to minimise these impacts where practical. If you are concerned about impact to your property, please email barton.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au .
Issues with contractors accessing my property.	If you have any issues, please contact the Barton Highway upgrade project team on 1800 931 250 or email barton.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au .
Environment	
Have you considered the impact on the environment?	As part of the investigations, we have assessed potential environmental impacts such as noise, vibration, contamination, flooding and surface water, landscape and visual impacts, biodiversity, land use, heritage, air quality, flora and fauna. The environmental assessment, called an REF, identifies and assesses the potential social, economic and environmental impacts, and will be available for comment in the near future, and can be viewed or downloaded at: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/barton-highway
What does noise monitoring involve?	Noise monitoring involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inspecting a property to identify if it may be a noise sensitive location installing noise monitoring equipment at sites to check readings at particular sites.
What do geotechnical investigations involve?	Noise monitoring involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> detailed mapping and photography of the ground drilling small boreholes which may involve vehicle mounted drilling rigs. Rocks may be taken away for analysis or spread across the drilling site installing water monitoring at selected boreholes. Access will be required to check instrument readings borehole imaging which involves lowering a camera into drilled holes to record geological changes hand drilling to extract soil material from a depth of one to two metres digging test pits using backhoes or excavators to examine soil type. Test pits are filled in after the soil characteristics have been recorded seismic testing which involves digging shallow boreholes for low charge detonations which send seismic waves through the ground. The seismic waves are then recorded and analysed tests using a truck mounted rig to push a cone into the ground to measure the resistance of different materials installing traffic control arrangements if the work is taking place near a road.
What do flora and fauna studies involve?	During flora and fauna studies staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are on site to record the flora and fauna. install equipment to record samples such as animal noises. Fauna studies are carried out at night as required.
What do heritage investigations involve?	Heritage investigations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> site investigations by staff to record heritage features. Representatives of the local Aboriginal community and/or the Local Aboriginal Land Council will often accompany project staff examining indigenous cultural heritage issues. observing and recording the features of specific sites. sampling and excavation of specific sites.
REF display period	The REF was open for public feedback from Monday 24 February 2020 to Friday 27 March 2020. The public display period gathered public opinion on the specialist reports and overall findings of the report and examined the impact of construction on environmental and cultural sites of significance within the project boundary. A submissions report has been compiled following the REF display period. The REF and submissions report can be viewed or downloaded at: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/barton-highway
Golden Sun Month (GSM)	Golden Sun Moth habitat (potential and known) was investigated as part of the review of environmental factors (REF) for the initial duplication work from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman. The REF concluded that the Golden Sun Moth will not be directly or indirectly impacted during this first stage of duplication work. Transport for NSW will monitor the Golden Sun Moth in future environmental assessments along the corridor as required.

Road design	
What is the proposed road design?	The proposed road design for the initial duplication will be available in the REF for public review and comment. Once the REF is determined, the road design will be finalised by the construction contractor when the design and construct tender is awarded.
When will see the design?	The construction contractor will release the design once the construct tender is awarded.
Planning for the future	
What is the next stage after the initial duplication?	We will be completing concept planning and environmental assessment for future duplication of the Barton Highway, after the initial works are complete.
Will there be any property acquisition for the future duplication and is my property affected?	We are carrying out investigation work which will inform the concept planning and environmental assessments for future works. We are still considering options for the design and will be in contact with affected property owners.
What is the Murrumbateman bypass and will there be an interchange at Hillview Drive?	The Murrumbateman bypass would be to the east of the village. The current concept design and road boundaries were finalised in 2011 and includes interchanges at Hillview Road and Euroka Avenue. A bypass of Murrumbateman will be investigated further during the detailed design phase.
What is Future Transport 2056?	<p><i>Future Transport 2056</i> is a series of plans to achieve a 40-year vision for NSW's transport system. <i>Future Transport 2056</i> places the customer at the centre of everything we do. It outlines a vision, strategic directions and customer outcomes, with infrastructure and services plans underpinning the delivery of these directions.</p> <p>Key messages for <i>Future Transport 2056</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of our choices today in shaping the future of the Barton Highway road network through long-term planning • an efficient transport system creates a productive economy to benefit local business growth • liveable communities promote social inclusion and support the health and wellbeing of the people who live in them. From Yass to Canberra to Murrumbateman and in between, the Barton Highway upgrade aims to put community needs first • to create a sustainable society to maximise the benefits of planned investment, and improve the emissions intensity and environmental costs for all road users and residents connected to the Barton Highway. • Find out more at www.future.transport.nsw.gov.au.
What is a business case?	The business case is a government agency document that justifies a project and provides advice to government about why it is a good project to invest in. It uses technical investigations such as traffic data and modelling, and cost benefit analysis. The strategic business case for the Barton Highway provides a staging and prioritisation strategy for future duplication as funding becomes available and can be viewed or downloaded at: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/barton-highway
Improving safety	
What safety work is complete?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shoulder widening • removal of roadside vegetation • upgrades to lineage and signage • installation of safety barrier • upgrades to bridge barriers • inspection and monitoring of bridges • inspection and monitoring of stormwater drain • intersection upgrade at Hillview Drive • initial investigations for the ITS or electronic messaging
Why have you installed more safety barriers?	Safety barriers reduce the severity of crashes if motorists lose control and veer off the road. Improving road infrastructure such as safety barriers is a vital part of the Towards Zero approach. You are five times more likely to be killed or seriously injured in a crash on a regional road compared to roads in metropolitan areas. The majority of these crashes are head-on collisions or happen when a vehicle runs off the road and into a roadside object, like a tree. Safety barriers reduce these types of crashes from happening by more than 85 per cent.
Why can't you put the traffic barriers in the centre of the road instead	The existing road is narrow and would require significant infrastructure work to accommodate the installation of traffic barriers down the centre. Central barrier systems perform best when there are no

of the sides to address oncoming traffic collisions?	breaks. On the Barton Highway, breaks would be required because of the large number of property accesses and intersections.
What do the intersection upgrades involve?	We have finished upgrading Hillview Drive. Vallencia Drive and Gooda Creek Road will be completed by the end of June 2020. The work involves improving lanes for slowing down, building concrete media strips, widening the road, installing safety barrier and upgrading line marking, drains and signs. Nanima Road intersection will be upgraded as part of duplication works.
Why are you upgrading intersections when the highway will eventually be duplicated?	While planning is under way for future duplication, it is important that we address safety issues at these intersections in the short term. Safety is our priority.
What is VMS or electronic message boards?	We are installing three permanent variable message signs at either end of the Barton Highway to help inform motorists of changed traffic conditions. The signs will inform road users of changed traffic conditions and also provide fog warnings in real time. We have completed a feasibility study which identifies suitable locations for intelligent transport systems, such as closed circuit television and variable message signs. This allows for future development of these systems as funding becomes available.
What are you doing to target driver behaviour?	A public education campaign about 'road worker safety' and 'Stop it or Cop it' speeding messages was conducted in 2018. The campaign included outdoor billboards, radio and social media. The Animals on Country Roads radio campaign was implemented during 2018 and included radio and social media campaigns. We continue to work with NSW Police and support enhanced enforcement operations across the region, including on the Barton Highway, through public education, including radio, billboard, social media, ATM and taxi backs. Other opportunities will be investigated to promote road safety messages addressing specific issues identified through analysis of crash data on the Barton Highway. These issues include speeding, tail-gating, driver distraction (mobile phones), driver fatigue, bus safety awareness and pedestrian and cyclist safety.
Will any work be carried out in Murrumbateman?	We are supporting Yass Valley Council's Active Transport plan to encourage walking and cycling as transport modes to meet the needs of the Murrumbateman community into the future and create a safer road network for all users. Safety concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of pedestrian visibility for motorists • people walking along the Barton Highway from Fairley Estate • difficulty crossing the highway. Concept plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extending the shared pathway from the Murrumbateman Hotel bus stop along the Barton Highway to Hercules Street to provide safe passage around the village • installing a pedestrian barrier at Jones Park and modifying the existing median island to improve safety. Our project team will be asking the Murrumbateman community how we can best serve pedestrians and cyclists in the village.
How will bus stop locations be improved?	We are continuing to review bus stop locations to determine options for improvements, including relocation.
Consultation	
I have suggestions for the road design. Is there an opportunity for input?	You are welcome to provide your suggestions and ideas for the proposed road design, however, we cannot guarantee that it will be adopted. The road design is influenced by a number of considerations including environment, heritage, technical factors and existing constraints. We are consulting with affected property owners on their current needs, which will help us with the design of the duplication. Suggestions can be provided at barton.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au .
What community consultation has been done to date?	Community consultation formed a key part of the Barton Highway Improvement Strategy. Planning for the Barton Highway duplication began as far back as 1996, with a considerable amount of community engagement since then. During the development of the Barton Highway Improvement Strategy, consultation was carried out with the community, stakeholders (including community groups) and elected representatives. We have hosted information kiosks at a number of locations in recent years and will continue to do so into the future. In October 2019, we hosted an information weekend at the Murrumbateman Field Days to inform the community about the progress of the project and gather feedback. Most recently our team attended the Murrumbateman Village Markets to inform the community about intersection upgrades on the Barton Highway and answer questions about the project.

	<p>During the review of environmental factors display period in March 2020, we held community information sessions at Yass and Murrumbateman to gain feedback and help inform the community on environmental studies, current work and next steps.</p> <p>We will keep the community informed about project progress through the media, on our website and Facebook page, by distributing newsletters and holding information kiosks in local towns. Comments and suggestions can be provided anytime at barton.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au.</p>
<p>I am a service provider and would like to express an interest in being engaged.</p>	<p>Procurement opportunities will be advertised when available. For more information around the tendering process, visit: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/partners-suppliers/doing-business-with-us. If you are a service provider and would like to express an interest in the project, please email your contact information and further details to barton.highway@rms.gov.au</p>
<p>How do I receive regular updates on the project?</p>	<p>You can call 1800 931 250 or email barton.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au and asked to be added to the distribution list.</p>
<p>How can I find out more, ask questions and contact the project team?</p>	<p>You can ring our project team on 1800 931 250 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays or email any comments or questions to barton.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au.</p>