

# Bells Line of Road Corridor – Chifley Road upgrade

## Clarence Road rail bridge – project update

October 2017



Eastbound approach to the Clarence Road rail bridge

### Overview

The NSW Government is proposing to upgrade sections of Chifley Road between Bell and Lithgow as part of the Bells Line of Road Corridor.

The upgrade is being planned to provide long-term road safety benefits and improve regional access.

The Bells Line of Road and its westerly extension, Chifley Road, form one of two major routes linking the Sydney urban area with Lithgow and the NSW Central Western region, through the Blue Mountains.

The combination of narrow lanes and shoulders and poor vertical and horizontal road alignment has led to a high crash rate along Chifley Road.

A Review of Environmental Factors and concept design for the proposed upgrade of Bells Line of Road/Chifley Road was determined last year, after community and stakeholder feedback.

### Latest news

Between February 2012 and December 2013, a number of safety features were implemented in the Scenic Hill area, including weather activated reduce speed signs, road resurfacing and speed activated curve advisory signs.

These features have reduced vehicle crashes in the area.

With the improved safety at Scenic Hill and with the availability of funding for the project, the replacement of the bridge at Clarence was determined to be a higher priority.

The NSW Government has allocated \$2.5 million in 2017/18 to continue planning to improve safety on Chifley Road by building a new bridge with an improved alignment across the railway line at Clarence.





Westbound approach to the Clarence Road rail bridge

**Why does Chifley Road need to be upgraded?**

The key focus of the upgrade is the Clarence Road rail bridge, located around five kilometres west of Bell.

The existing bridge will be replaced to improve safety for all road users and improve regional access.

A new bridge across the rail line is required as the existing bridge was built in 1943 and its condition has deteriorated.

The existing bridge has narrow lanes, no road shoulders and safety barriers which need updating.

**Key features**

- The upgrade would provide long-term road safety benefits and improve regional access and efficiency by:
- replacing and removing the existing Clarence Road bridge across the Main Western railway line on Chifley Road
  - widening and realigning the approaches to the new bridge across the railway line
  - improving the Clarence Colliery Road intersection with Chifley Road.



Improving  
safety



Intersection  
improvements



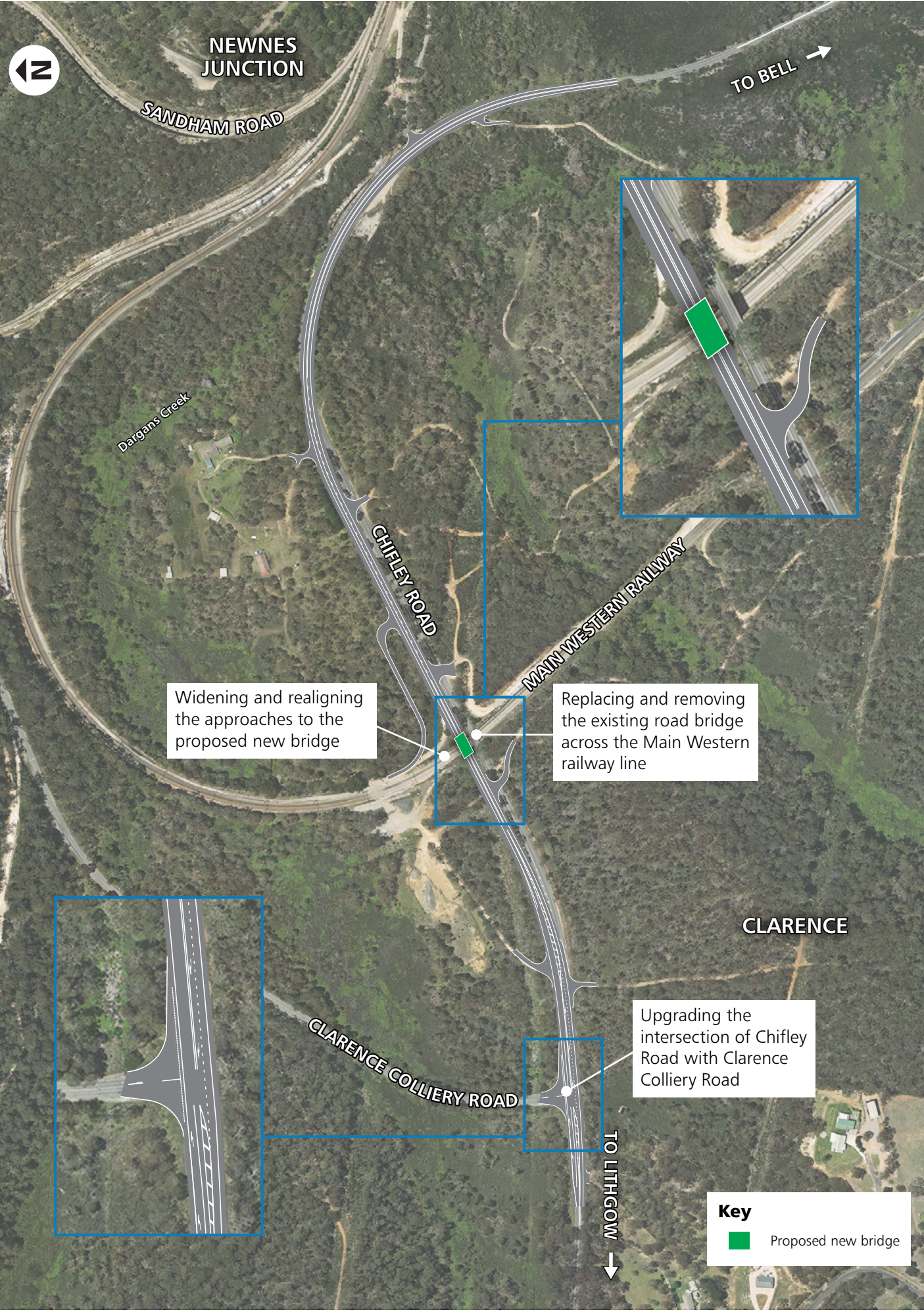
Improve  
road alignment



Better and more  
reliable trips  
for people, business and freight



Clarence Road over rail bridge





## Community consultation

Roads and Maritime prepared a Review of Environmental Factors to examine the potential impact of the proposed Chifley Road upgrade and outline measures to reduce and manage any impact.

The Review of Environmental Factors came after the display of a preliminary concept design which encouraged community and stakeholder feedback to help guide the design.

A community consultation report outlining and responding to issues raised is available on the Roads and Maritime website.

The Review of Environmental Factors was displayed for community and stakeholder feedback last year.

A total of 10 submissions were received which resulted in no changes to the project.

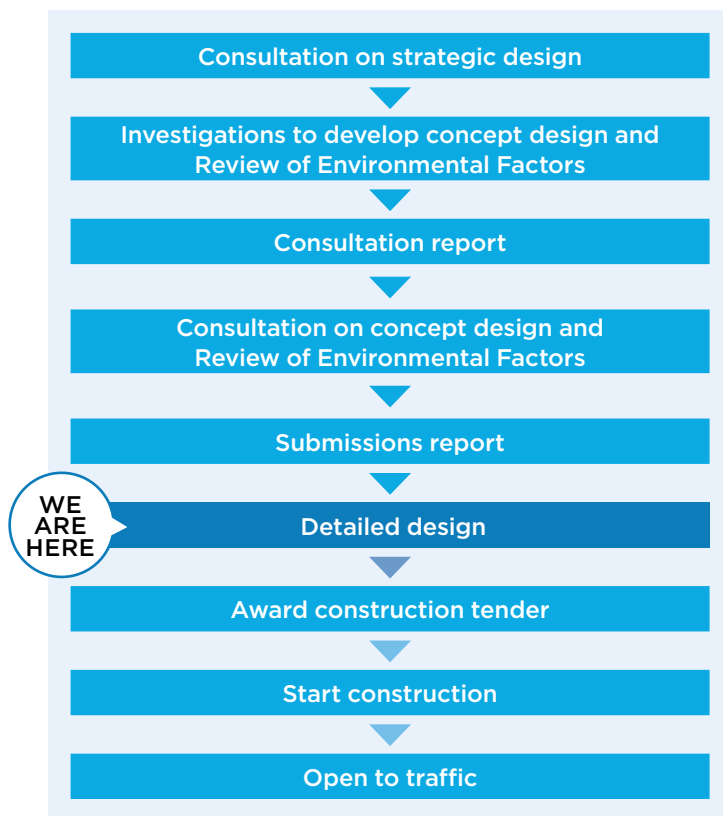
The Review of Environmental Factors and Submissions Report are available to view or download from the Roads and Maritime website at: [rms.nsw.gov.au/chifley](http://rms.nsw.gov.au/chifley).

## Next Steps

The contract for the detailed design of the Clarence Bridge replacement is expected to be awarded by the end of 2017, with design work starting in early 2018.

## The process so far

Roads and Maritime will continue to keep the community updated as the project progresses.



## Contact us

For more information or to provide feedback, please contact the project team:



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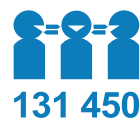
[rms.nsw.gov.au/chifley](http://rms.nsw.gov.au/chifley)



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Existing bridge across the rail corridor



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