

Transport for NSW

Proposed safety improvements along Big River Way between Glenugie and Tyndale

Have your say



Approaching exit to Big River Way from the new Pacific Highway

As part of the NSW Government's Saving Lives on Country Roads program we are proposing a number of safety improvements on the old Pacific Highway, now known as Big River Way, between Glenugie and Tyndale.

The proposal

The NSW Government is investing up to \$20 million over the next three years to deliver a number of road safety improvements on Big River Way between Glenugie and Tyndale. This significant investment will include rebuilding sections of the road surface which have been damaged, to provide a smoother travel journey.

We have developed a Safer Asset Strategy that sets out the priorities for safety improvements and upgrades for this road over the next few years.

This section of highway, between Glenugie and Tyndale, will remain a State road and receive regular maintenance as part of Transport for NSW's routine maintenance schedule.

Improving the local road network

The Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade has resulted in changes to the local road network in the Clarence Valley region. The old highway between Glenugie and Tyndale has carried a significant volume of traffic over the years.

The Safer Assets Strategy has been developed to reduce ongoing maintenance and identify the most appropriate treatments to improve a number of intersections and safety along the road. The proposal is aimed to improve the road and provide a safer, efficient and reliable journey to road users.

Proposed improvements

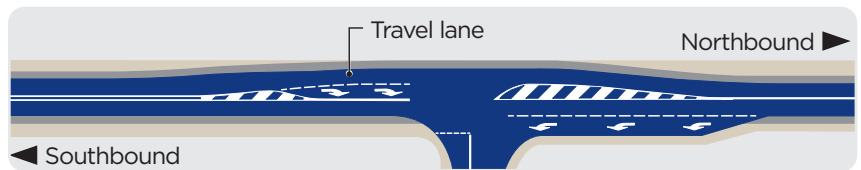
We propose to:

- Install widened centre line on the highway to increase the separation between on-coming vehicles
- Install safety barrier to reduce the risk of vehicles leaving the highway and hitting an object or oncoming vehicle
- Improve intersections at Eight Mile, Six Mile and Four Mile lanes, Centenary Drive (south), Heber Street in South Grafton, Swan and McLachlans lanes and Coldstream Road
- Review bus drop off/pick up areas and improve where possible
- Provide safer turning facilities facilities at Six Mile Lane
- Install roadside safety barrier for improved protection of pedestrians at Ulmarra
- Review the Ulmarra school zone for safety measures and opportunities.

This project will be delivered in stages, to minimise disruption to traffic during major work.

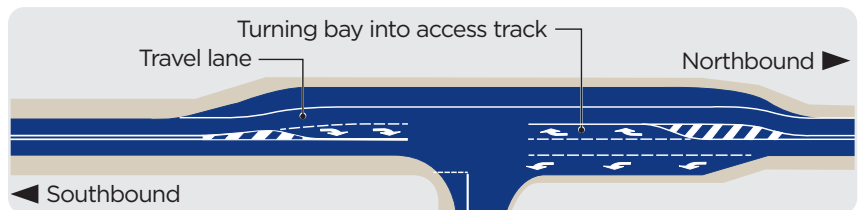
A Eight Mile Lane: improve the existing intersection

Improve the existing intersection by installing a widened centreline/median on the highway to increase the separation between on-coming vehicles. Lighting will be installed to improve visibility and safety. The existing left turn lane into Eight Mile Lane will also be widened to improve safety by separating traffic from through traffic on the highway.



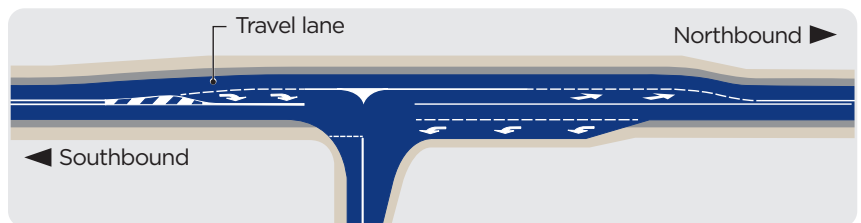
B Six Mile Lane: provide a new intersection treatment

Provide a new intersection to improve safety for north and southbound traffic. The road will be widened to provide a designated turning lane for northbound traffic turning right into Six Mile Lane. A designated turning lane will also be provided for southbound traffic for safe turning movements into the new access track.



C Four Mile Lane: improve the existing intersection

Improve the existing intersection by using part of the old northbound overtaking lane. This will allow entering traffic to accelerate before merging with northbound traffic. While this treatment is similar to the existing, it will improve safety as the northbound acceleration lane will no longer be combined into a fast lane of an overtaking lane.



D Centenary Drive (south): provide a new intersection treatment

Provide a new intersection treatment to improve safety for traffic turning into and out of Centenary Drive, particularly in the northbound direction. Including a new acceleration lane for vehicles turning right onto the highway to provide greater separation from through traffic on the highway.



E Heber Street: improve intersection for southbound traffic

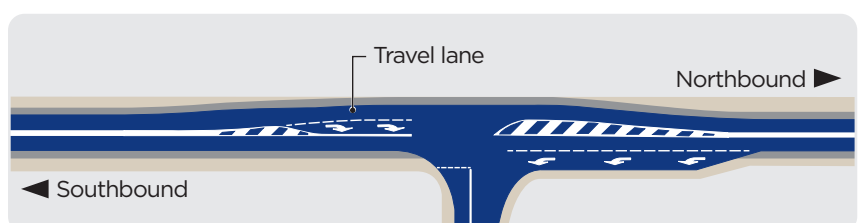
Improve safety at this intersection by providing improved conditions for southbound traffic. This will involve sealing the gravel shoulder either side of Heber Street, which will improve the road surface and reduce the potential for loss of vehicle control when passing stationary vehicles.

F Swan Lane and McLachlans Lane: improve intersection for northbound traffic

Upgrade the existing T-intersection to include a widened sealed shoulder for northbound traffic. This will improve the road surface and reduce the potential for loss of vehicle control when passing stationary vehicles.

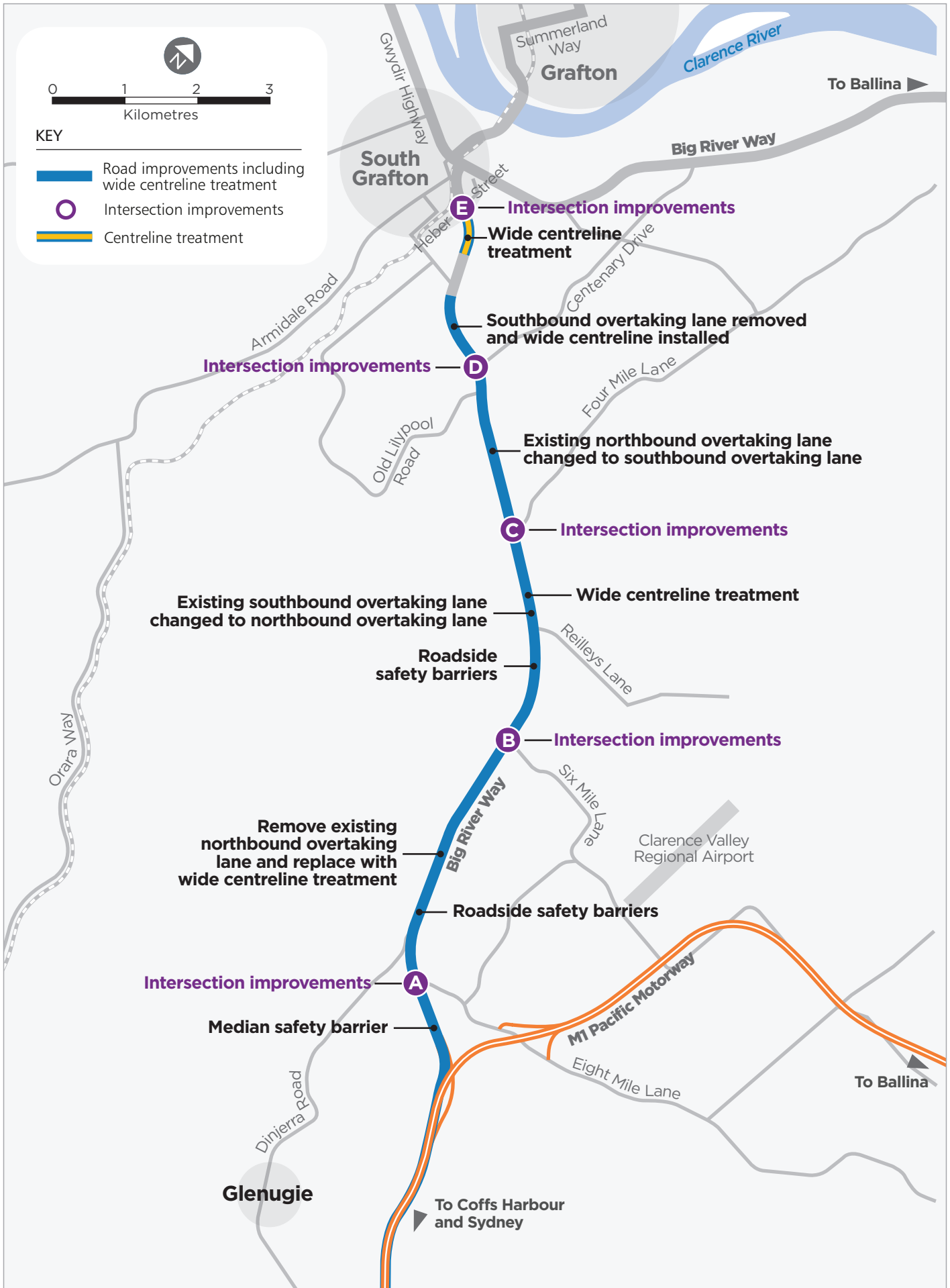
G Coldstream Road, Tyndale: reinstate intersection

Remove the acceleration lane for northbound traffic (currently used for construction traffic) and reinstate the central median. This will connect to a wide centreline with median barrier to improve safety for motorists through the Tyndale village.

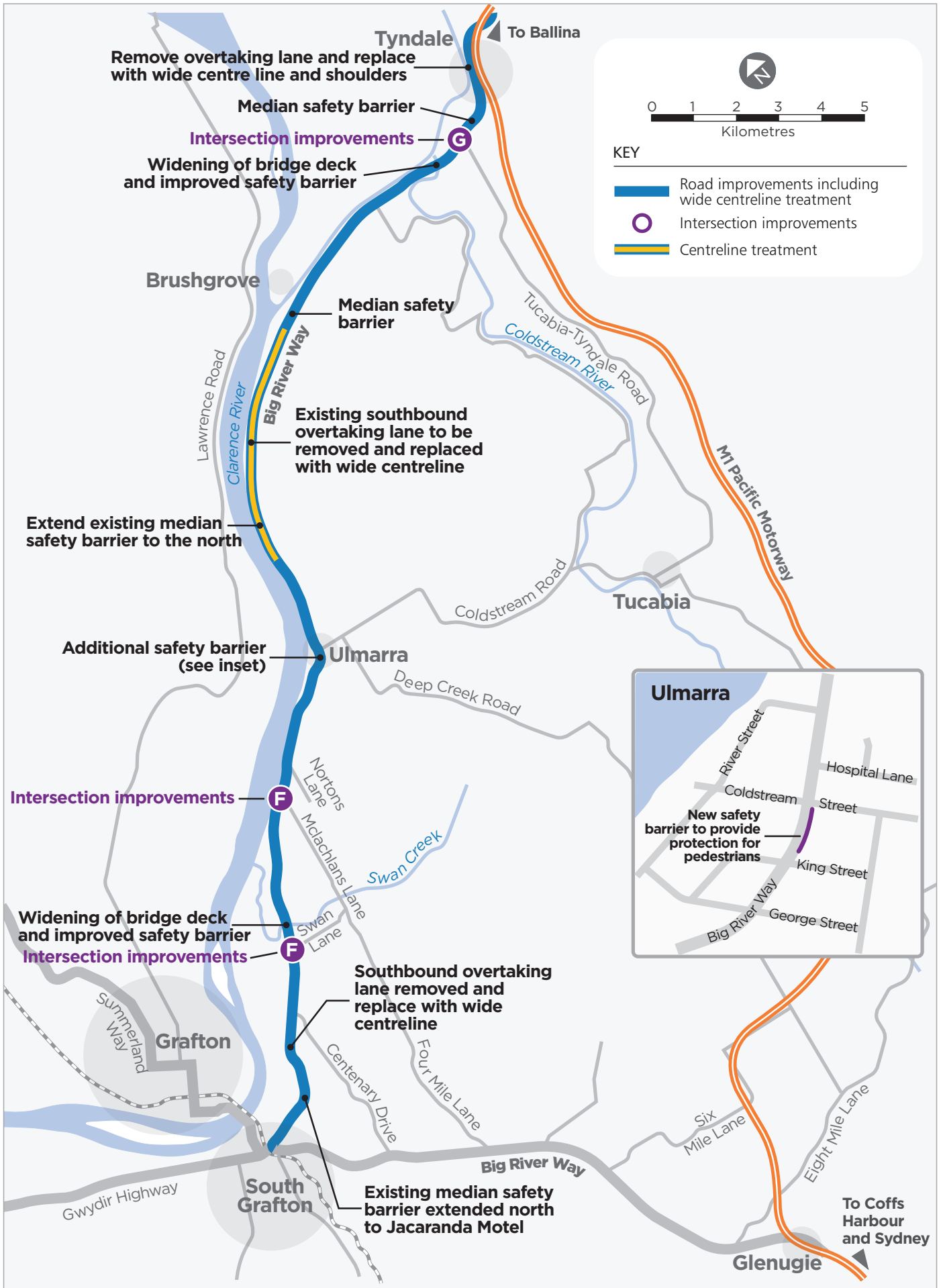


Note: Intersection treatment drawings above are indicative only.



Glenugie to South Grafton



South Grafton to Tyndale



The old Pacific Highway between Glenugie and Tyndale - now known as Big River Way - will continue to be a key link in the State road network that connects communities across the region.

 **40% reduction**
 **75% reduction**
in daily vehicle movements



Example of the median safety barrier proposed at various locations on Big River Way



Installing safety barrier to improve pedestrian safety in Ulmarra

Benefits

- Improvements to road safety to reduce crashes and resulting fatalities and injuries
- Intersection improvements to deliver safer turning movements
- Widened road shoulders and improved road width
- Improved pedestrian safety through Ulmarra.



Improve safety and reduce the severity of crashes

How will the proposal impact me?

With the recent opening of the Glenugie to Tyndale section of the Pacific Highway upgrade, it is expected that the number of heavy vehicles travelling Big River Way between Tyndale to South Grafton and Glenugie will reduce by about 75 per cent. Big River Way will remain the main connection to Grafton, the New England region, and the Summerland Way.

The proposed safety improvements will provide a safer road network for all road users.

To reduce the potential for head on collisions, we are looking at a number of locations to install median safety barriers. This may result in a change to how you access your property and could result in an increase to your journey time. If your access is impacted, you may have to access or exit Big River Way at a different intersection or use another intersection to safely turn around to head in

As a regular user of this road, we want your input to help us refine our proposed improvements

the direction you need travel. We acknowledge this may be an inconvenience, however, we need to ensure we are improving safety for all road users.

In this environment, left-in and left-out turning movements are preferred for any access onto the highway, such as driveways, as they separate potential conflict points.

We will work with residents and businesses within the project areas to minimise any potential impacts, such as property access, during and after the improvements are carried out.

Eight Mile Lane access for heavy vehicles

Access to Grafton from the new motorway is provided via Glenugie or Tyndale interchanges.

Southbound motorists can travel via the Tyndale interchange north of Grafton or the Glenugie interchange on the new highway to the south. It is likely that motorists will choose to access Grafton via the Tyndale interchange as this is the quickest and shortest route. While some southbound motorists may choose to access via the Eight Mile Lane interchange, this would add 12 minutes additional travel time, and 14 kilometres extra length to the journey.

Vehicles greater than 19 metres are restricted from using the Glenugie (north) interchange as Eight Mile Lane is not currently a designated B-double route. B-doubles will need to use the Glenugie (south), or Tyndale interchanges when travelling to and from Grafton.

We have considered this issue and held discussions with the local transport industry and Council on the matter. It has been determined that the use of Eight Mile Lane will be monitored following the opening of the upgrade, to assist in providing a greater understanding of how this section of road will be used.

While work is being carried out on Big River Way over the next three years, we will continue to monitor this section of road and consider any opportunities to improve road safety in this area.

Have your say by Friday, 10 July 2020

We are seeking your feedback on the proposed improvements to Big River Way between Glenugie and Tyndale.

You can provide feedback via:

Post: Big River Way Glenugie to Tyndale - proposed safety improvements

PO Box 576

Grafton

NSW 2460

Email: grafton.regional.office@rms.nsw.gov.au

For more information about the project visit:

<https://www.nswroads.work/bigriverway>

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say

Next steps

Once feedback is considered and proposed works are finalised, TfNSW propose to start early work from late July 2020, weather permitting.

We will provide regular updates to the community on the progress and delivery of this important program of works.

Where appropriate, we will engage with the community during the development of the specific projects; however, some activities will be determined by engineering needs and corridor constraints.

In those instances, we will maintain regular communication with our key stakeholders and, where possible, address any concerns raised as part of our engagement process.



Big River Way just south of Cowper looking south



Intersection improvements at a number of locations



New safety barrier to improve pedestrian safety in Ulmarra



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 549 159. The interpreter will then assist you with translation.