

# Mount Victoria to Lithgow

Great Western Highway upgrade



Transport  
Roads & Maritime  
Services

OCTOBER 2012

COMMUNITY UPDATE

## In this issue

### **Forty Bends upgrade environmental impact assessment for your comment**

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is seeking your comment on the environmental impact assessment of the proposed Forty Bends upgrade of the Great Western Highway. A staffed display will be held on 17 October 2012 and submissions will be received until 26 October 2012.

### **Mount Victoria safety upgrade for your comment**

RMS has further developed plans to improve safety at selected curves and intersections through the village following community feedback in 2011. More information on these plans is available on page 3, by attending a staffed display on 18 October 2012 or by reading the feasibility report available on RMS' website.

### **Hartley Valley safety upgrade for your comment**

RMS is seeking comment on proposals to improve safety along the highway and selected intersections by 26 October 2012. More information on the proposals is available on page 5, by attending a staffed display on 18 October 2012 or by reading the feasibility report available on RMS' website.

## Recent news

In July 2012, the Australian and New South Wales governments announced a \$250 million revised investment program for the upgrade of the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow. The revised investment program includes:

- Upgrading the highway at Forty Bends.
- Developing an enhanced safety upgrade program in Mount Victoria village and the Hartley Valley.
- Finalising the concept design for the upgrade between Mount Victoria and Lithgow.

Remaining funds will be used for priority safety upgrades between Katoomba and Mount Victoria. RMS will seek your comment on proposals for this section in 2013.

# Forty Bends environmental impact assessment

RMS has prepared an environmental impact assessment, called a Review of Environmental Factors (REF), to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Forty Bends upgrade and to identify environmental safeguards, mitigation and management measures.

Detailed investigations were undertaken for the REF on impacts relating to biodiversity, Aboriginal heritage, non-Aboriginal heritage, noise and vibration, water quality, urban design and traffic.

Proposed mitigation measures to address potential impacts include:

- Protecting identified habitat for the endangered Purple Copper Butterfly.
- Installing fauna crossings (including three underpasses, two rope bridges and three glider pole structures) to provide connection between Hassans Walls Reserve and Whites Creek valley.
- Archaeological monitoring of construction works in the vicinity of identified non-Aboriginal heritage sites.

- Building water quality basins to treat stormwater runoff from the road surface.

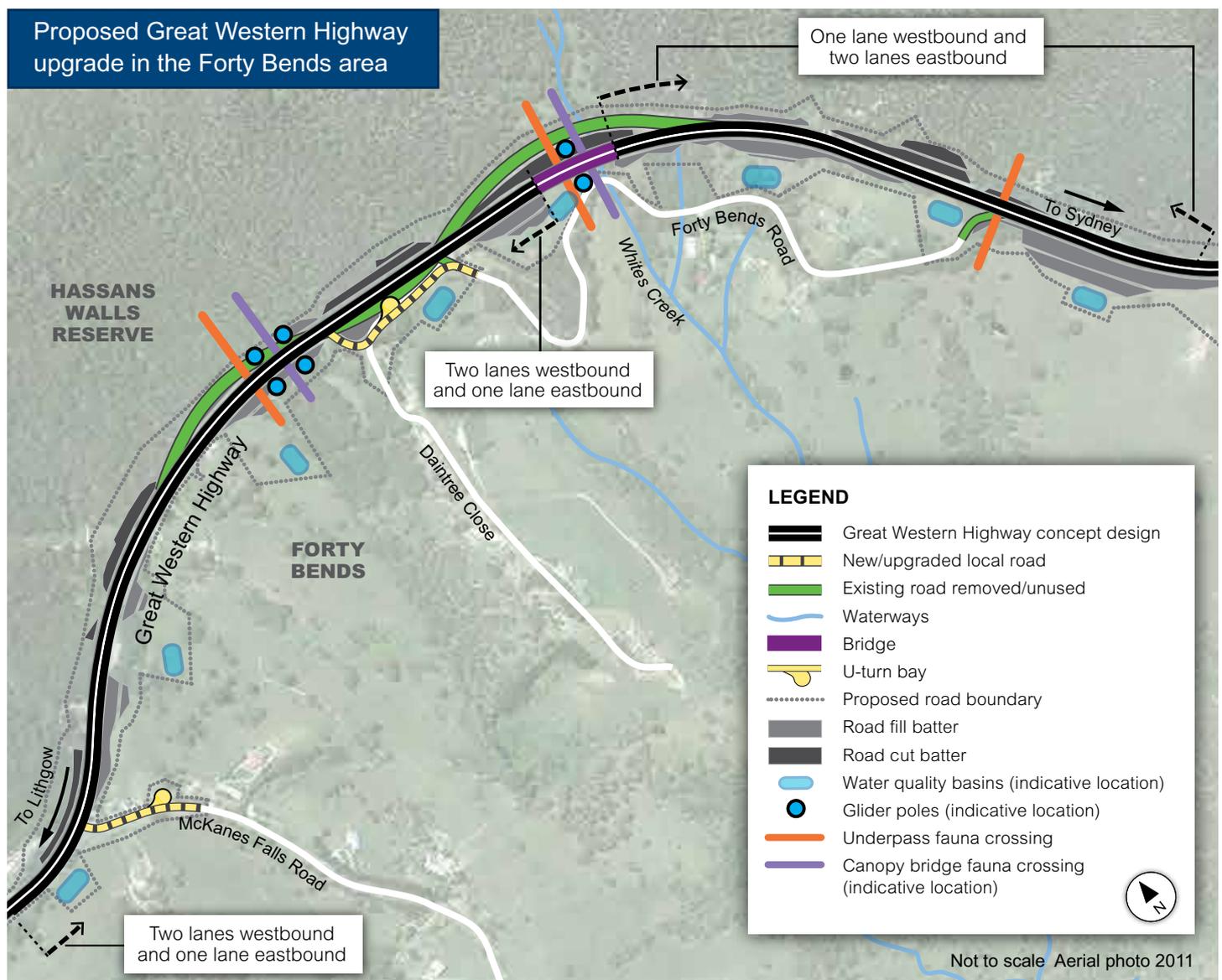
## How to make a submission

Submissions on the REF close on Friday 26 October 2012. A feedback form is provided in this community update. Alternatively you can send your written comments to the Mount Victoria to Lithgow Alliance at the mail or email address shown on the back page of this community update.

You are also encouraged to attend a staffed display on 17 October 2012 at South Bowenfels. See the back page of this community update for details.

## Next steps

RMS will prepare a submissions report to address issues raised by the community and government agencies during the display. RMS will then determine whether or not to amend the proposed upgrade.



# Safety upgrade planned for Mount Victoria village

RMS has further developed plans to improve safety in Mount Victoria village. These plans incorporate community feedback from 2011. These improvements would provide safer and more consistent driving conditions on the Great Western Highway in Mount Victoria and better pathways for pedestrians and cyclists.

These plans will be on display on 18 October 2012 at Mount Victoria Public School from 6pm to 8pm.

Your feedback will assist RMS to prepare detailed designs and an environmental impact assessment. Adjacent property owners will be contacted as part of this process.

## New lane configurations

Between Grandview Road and Kanimbla Valley Road, a median turning lane would be provided to improve traffic flow by separating turning vehicles from through traffic.

In a median turning lane, the lane is shared in both directions. This treatment would make it safer and easier to turn into side streets and access private property. See figures A and D.

Between Station Street and just east of Harley Avenue, a painted median will be provided with protected right turn lanes to improve traffic flow by separating turning vehicles from through traffic. See figures B and C.

## Safety and traffic management improvements

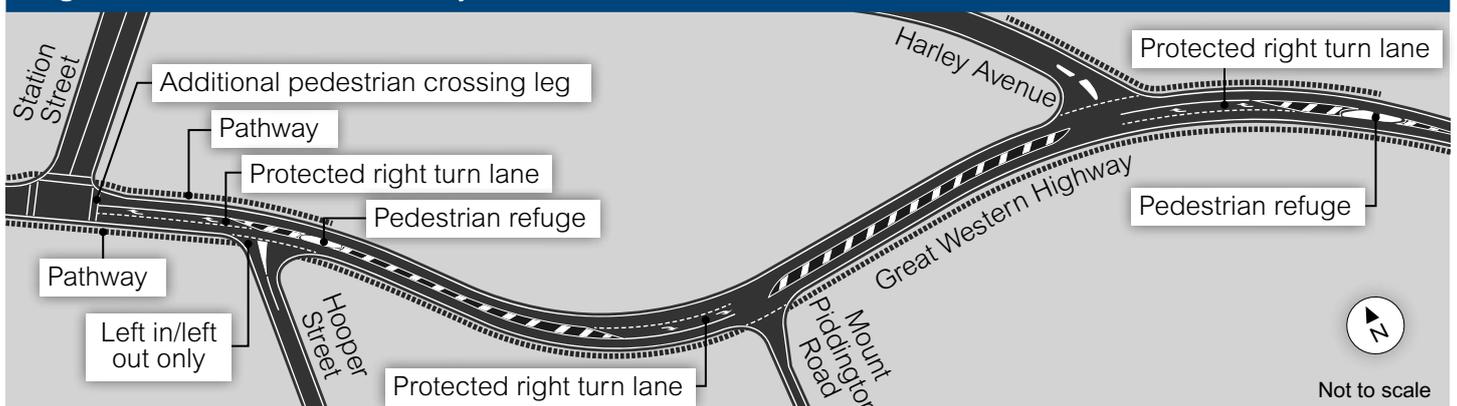
- Westbound shoulder widening at Victoria Falls Road.
- Curve improvements west of the rail bridge.
- Curve improvements with a painted median and protected right turn lanes at Harley Avenue and Mount Piddington Road.
- Left in/left out turning movements only at Hooper Street.
- Pavement widening and a median turning lane between Grandview Road and Kanimbla Valley Road.
- A painted median with a protected right turn lane at Fairy Dell Road.
- Raised medians and a protected right turn lane at Mount York Road.
- Safer pathway for pedestrians and cyclists between Mount York Road and Browntown Oval.
- Six pedestrian refuges for pedestrians crossing the highway between Victoria Falls Road and Fairy Dell Road.
- An additional pedestrian crossing leg to the existing traffic lights at Station Street.

More information on these plans is available in the feasibility report on RMS' website. See the back page of this community update for details on how to comment.

**Figure A** Grandview Road to Kanimbla Valley Road



**Figure B** Station Street to Harley Avenue



**Figure C** Typical protected right turn lane in Mount Victoria



**Figure D** How a median turning lane looks



Safety upgrade plans along the Great Western Highway through Mount Victoria



# Safety upgrade proposals for Hartley Valley

RMS has undertaken a feasibility assessment of safety upgrade proposals for the Hartley Valley as part of the revised investment program. RMS is seeking your comment on the following proposals which have been assessed as providing improved safety and value for money. See the back page of this community update for details on how to comment.

## Lane configuration

Two 3.5 metre traffic lanes with 2.0 metre sealed shoulders would be provided to create a consistent road width and shape from the bottom curve of Victoria Pass to just beyond the Jenolan Caves Road intersection and between the existing rest areas and the Forty Bends upgrade.

## Design speed

The safety upgrade proposal would be designed to suit the current 80km/h speed limit, however the curve at Hartley historic village would remain unchanged. River Lett Hill would also remain unchanged.

## Intersections

All intersections would have protected right turn lanes and indented left turn lanes to improve safety for turning traffic.

The Coxs River Road approach to the highway would be realigned to provide a safer intersection layout and increase protected storage for eastbound vehicles turning right into Coxs River Road. The crest on the highway at Browns Gap Road would be lowered to improve sight distance for turning and through traffic.

## Overtaking lanes

The down hill overtaking lane on River Lett Hill would be extended by about 300 metres. The eastbound overtaking lane between River Lett and Mid Hartley Road would remain, as would the overtaking lane leading to the bottom curve of Victoria Pass. The westbound overtaking lane at Mid Hartley Road would be converted to a protected right turn lane.

## Median barrier

The existing concrete median barrier on the curve at Hartley would be replaced with a permanent concrete median barrier (similar to the ones on River Lett Hill). The feasibility report for Hartley Valley safety upgrade proposals can be viewed on RMS' website. These safety upgrade proposals will be on display on 18 October 2012 at Hartley and Mount Victoria. See the back page of this community update for details.

## Safety upgrade proposals along the Great Western Highway in the Hartley Valley



## Typical protected right turn lane and indented left turn lane treatment



## Forty Bends REF display details

The Forty Bends REF will be on display until **26 October 2012** at the following locations:

Lithgow City Council  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow  
Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Lithgow Library  
157 Main Street, Lithgow  
Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm and  
Saturday from 9am to noon.

RMS Motor Registry Lithgow  
Shop 51, Valley Plaza  
Corner of Lithgow and Bent streets, Lithgow  
Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Blue Mountains City Council  
2-6 Civic Place, Katoomba  
Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5pm.

Katoomba Library  
Town Centre Arcade  
Katoomba Street, Katoomba  
Monday to Friday from 10am to 5.30pm and  
Saturday from 9am to noon.

### Staffed display - 17 October 2012

The Bowen Inn  
5 Col Drewe Drive, South Bowenfels  
10am to 2pm.

Environmental specialists and other members of the project team will be available to discuss your comments on the REF. Light refreshments will be available.

## Mount Victoria and Hartley Valley safety upgrade display details

### Staffed displays - 18 October 2012

Hartley School Building  
Mid Hartley Road, Hartley  
Noon to 2pm.

Mount Victoria Public School  
Victoria Street, Mount Victoria  
6pm to 8pm.

You are invited to a staffed display to discuss your comments with our road designers and other members of the project team. Light refreshments will be available.

Comments on the Forty Bends REF, safety upgrade proposals and the overall concept design will be received until **26 October 2012**. Send your written comments to the Mount Victoria to Lithgow Alliance at the mail or email address shown below.

### RMS website

The Forty Bends REF and safety upgrade proposals are available on RMS' website at [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects).

## The Caltex working group

RMS has established a small working group to look at broad access and amenity issues surrounding the Caltex Service Station in Mount Victoria. The purpose of the working group is to assist RMS identify the various issues.

Work group participants include RMS staff, local members of parliament, representatives from Caltex, Blue Mountains City Council, the trucking industry and local residents and community leaders.

The group met for the first time on Tuesday 28 August, 2012 in Mount Victoria. Notes from this meeting can be found on the website. The next meeting of the group is expected to be held in November 2012.



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### For more information:

Mail to Mount Victoria to Lithgow Alliance, PO Box 164, St Leonards NSW 1590

T 1800 035 733 (toll free)

E [MV2Linformation@MV2L.com.au](mailto:MV2Linformation@MV2L.com.au) or visit [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects)

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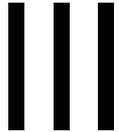


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