

# Katoomba to Mount Victoria safety upgrade

## Community update

November 2017



Great Western Highway through Blackheath

Roads and Maritime Services is upgrading the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow to improve traffic flow, safety and travel conditions for all road users.

This proposal improves safety between Katoomba and Mount Victoria by widening the highway shoulders and providing dedicated turn lanes among other safety work.

The update is being done in sections. This is so motorists will have a better experience during construction.

Sections include safety upgrades at Forty Bends, Hartley Valley and Mount Victoria Village.

The rest of the funding will be used for safety upgrades in a priority order between Katoomba and Mount Victoria.

The Australian and NSW governments have allocated a total of \$250 million for the work.

### What is happening?

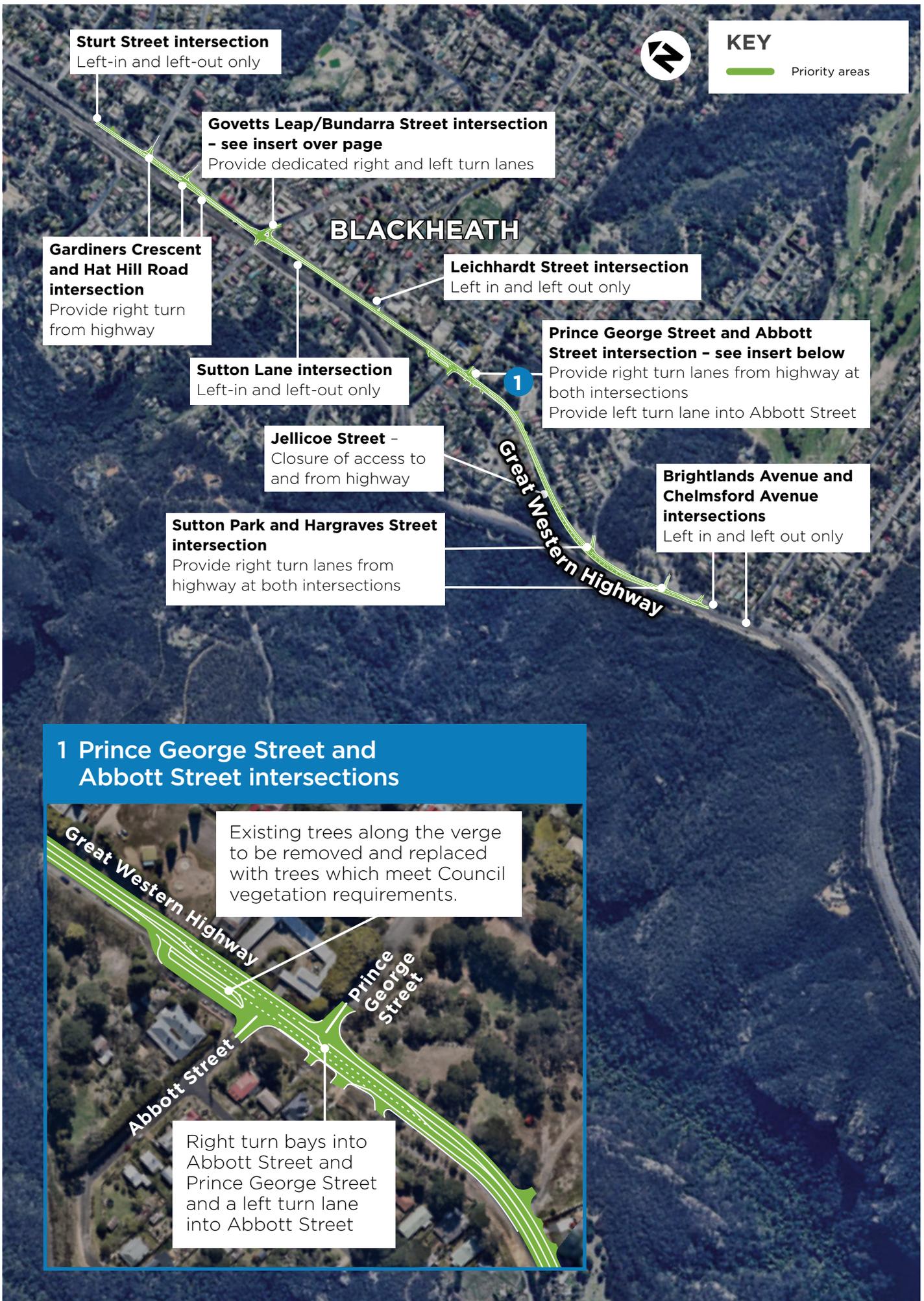
Detailed design of the project has been completed and Roads and Maritime Services expects to invite tenders later this year with work to start in mid 2018.

More than 100 submissions were received after the display of the Katoomba to Mount Victoria Review of Environmental Factors in early 2016.

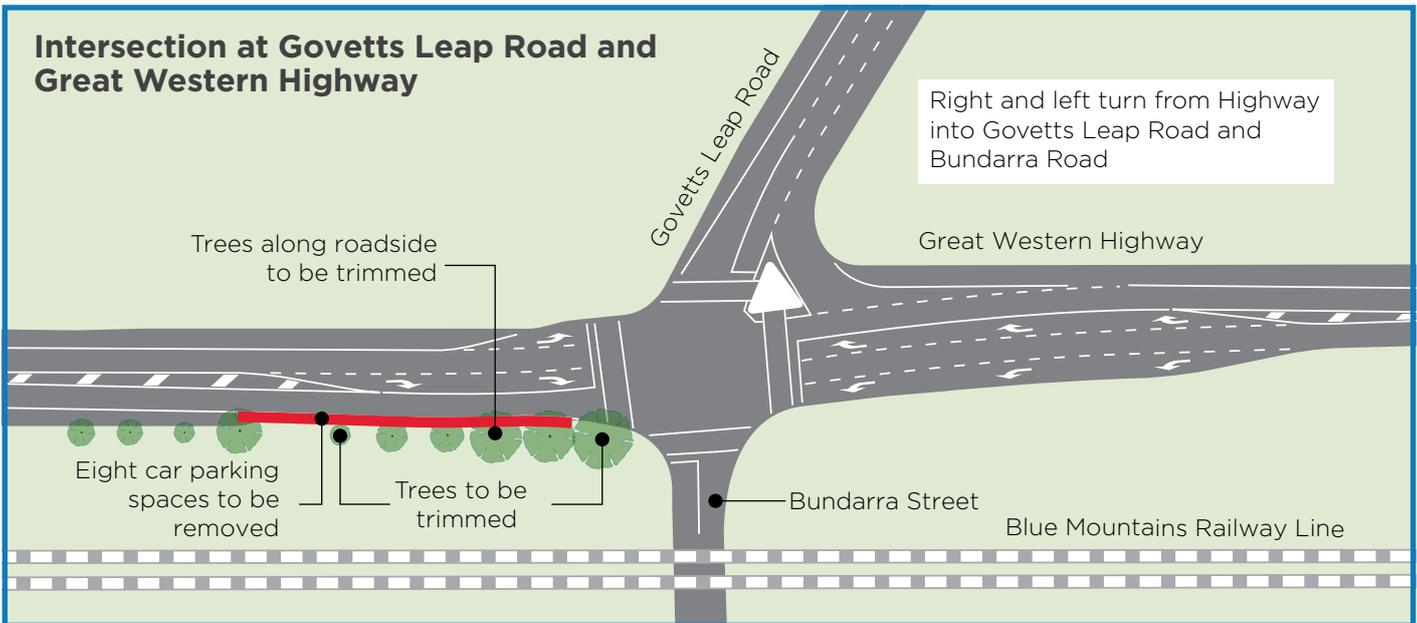
Roads and Maritime considered all feedback and prepared a submissions report which provided a summary of comments and responses since the concept design was displayed.

As a result of community feedback, the project has been through a series of design refinements which considered environmental impact and available funding, while meeting the objective to improve safety along the route.

## Prioritised work



## Intersection at Govetts Leap Road and Great Western Highway



## Improvements in Blackheath include:

- left in and left out at Brightlands Avenue, Chelmsford Avenue, Leichhardt Street, Sturt Street and Sutton Lane
- banning right turn movements out of Prince George Street
- improving access to these local roads via other intersections with proposed right turn bays at Sutton Park, Hargraves Road, Prince George Street, Abbott Street, Govetts Leap Road, Gardiner Crescent and Hat Hill Road
- removal of some trees around Abbott Street, Prince George Street, Sutton Park and Jellicoe Street
- dedicated right and left turn bays from Great Western Highway to Govetts Leap Road and Bundarra Street
- closure of access from Great Western Highway to Jellicoe Street
- provide wider sealed road shoulders.

## Benefits

The safety upgrade project will improve traffic flow and road user safety at 13 intersections along the Great Western Highway, including the major intersection in Blackheath of the Great Western Highway/ Govetts Leap Road/Bundarra Street.

The final design for the intersection includes the provision of right and left turn bays to:

- reduce the potential for rear end crashes by moving vehicles waiting to turn right out of the path of the through traffic
- reduce disruptions to through traffic allowing drivers to travel through Blackheath at a consistent and safer speed.



## Improvements at Medlow Bath include:

While the upgrade through Blackheath remains the priority, work is also being considered on an area of the highway around 150 metres west of Railway Parade at Medlow Bath with Roads and Maritime taking into account factors including environmental impact, funding and land availability.

Improvements being considered include:

- widening the median
- realigning sections of the road to straighten bends
- relocating utilities such as poles to safer locations
- providing wider sealed road shoulders
- installing new safety barriers.

## Trees and landscaping

After significant community consultation, Roads and Maritime has mapped the roots of the existing trees and carried out an assessment by an arborist for the Great Western Highway/Govetts Leap Road/Bundarra Street intersection.

The arborist assessment determined all the trees at the intersection should be able to be retained.

A final decision by the arborist will be made when excavation work is carried out.

The design development process sought to minimise the loss of trees associated with the road safety upgrade and mitigate the loss of trees by replanting with street trees which meet Council's landscaping guidelines, where feasible. However, to improve safety on the Great Western Highway removal of some street trees is unavoidable.

During the detailed project design, an arboricultural impact assessment was carried out to determine the impact on street trees. This assessment has also helped to inform the final project design.

Based on the arborist assessment, Roads and Maritime has prepared a summary report which includes artists' impressions of before and after photographs of the proposed work, including tree trimming at Govetts Leap Road and replanting of trees near the Abbott Street intersection.

This report will be included in the addendum REF and published on Roads and Maritime's website in December.

## Parking

One of the features of the upgrade includes widening the highway through Blackheath. Parking near the War Memorial is informal and Roads and Maritime is planning to implement 30 degree angle parking to improve road user safety.

The new parking options will still cater for demand in the area. Some loss of parking will be incurred on the westbound lanes near the shops, due to road widening activity to improve safety, traffic flow and reduce delays and queuing at this intersection.



## Next steps



## Contact details

 Contact the team directly on 1800 035 733

 [K2Lupgrade@rms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:K2Lupgrade@rms.nsw.gov.au)

 More information is available at [rms.nsw.gov.au/katoomba-mtvc](http://rms.nsw.gov.au/katoomba-mtvc)



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November 2017  
RMS 17.622

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