



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Katoomba to Mount Victoria safety upgrade – Blackheath

Project update | February 2019



Artist impression – looking west at Abbott Street Intersection

The Australian and New South Wales governments are upgrading the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow for easier, faster and safer travel.

Roads and Maritime Services has started major work for the safety upgrade at Blackheath. This is the final section of work to be delivered under the \$250 million Katoomba to Lithgow safety upgrades package. Road users are experiencing safer journeys and improved travel times from completed upgrades now open to traffic at Forty Bends, Hartley Valley and Mount Victoria village.

Project benefits

The safety upgrade 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 and Bundarra Street.

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

- reduce the chance of rear end crashes by moving vehicles waiting to turn right out of the path of through traffic
- improve traffic flow, allowing drivers to travel through Blackheath at a consistent and safer speed

Work commenced in December 2018. The safety upgrade activities in progress include:

- earthwork excavation and embankment work to widen the highway from Brightlands Avenue to Abbott Street
- drainage work and utility relocation near Abbott Street
- drainage work and water main relocation in Blackheath town centre. We are carrying out this work at night to minimise impacts on traffic and the community.

Roads and Maritime is committed to working with the community. We are trying to minimise the impact to nearby properties and traffic on the highway while work is being carried out.

The project team has carried out consultation with the community to extend night work to complete the project.

The work is expected to be complete and the upgrade open to traffic in late 2019, weather permitting.

Urban design improvements at Hill 33

Roads and Maritime acknowledges recent community feedback about the work proposed for the Hill 33 area between Hargraves and Jellicoe streets.

As a result of this feedback Roads and Maritime has been meeting with local community group representatives to hear further feedback about how we can improve the urban design appearance of the road cutting on the southern side of the highway.

The revised proposal includes extensive planting of shrubs behind the kerb to screen the cutting from view and maintain the bush land character in this area.

Large Blueberry Ash trees will also be planted on top of the cutting to further screen the adjoining properties from the highway.

The roadway cutting will need to be stabilised with sprayed concrete to protect the weak sandstone rock from erosion. The final coating for the sprayed concrete will be coloured with oxide and the surface textured to provide a natural appearance, similar to the surrounding rock colour.

Artist impressions of how the cutting will appear after the work is completed and after the proposed planting has grown are below:



Artist Impression: Hill 33 when works are completed



Artist impression: Screening of the cutting after the planting has matured

Additional urban design initiatives

Every effort has been made to minimise the loss of trees associated with the road safety upgrade. However, some tree removal is still needed.

Following completion of the highway safety upgrade the project area will be landscaped with trees, shrubs and ground covers.

The landscape design aims to retain the qualities of the Blue Mountains highway experience. From recent discussions with the local community we also propose to:

- provide an additional footpath from Prince George Street through to Hargraves Street and the highway rest area
- improve tree planting options around the carpark at the Blackheath memorial
- plant further trees to fill vegetation gaps between the highway and the railway between Abbott Road and Railway Street.



Safety upgrade work continues at Sutton Park



The top of Hill 33, looking north towards Prince George and Abbott Street



Improving
safety



Intersection
improvements

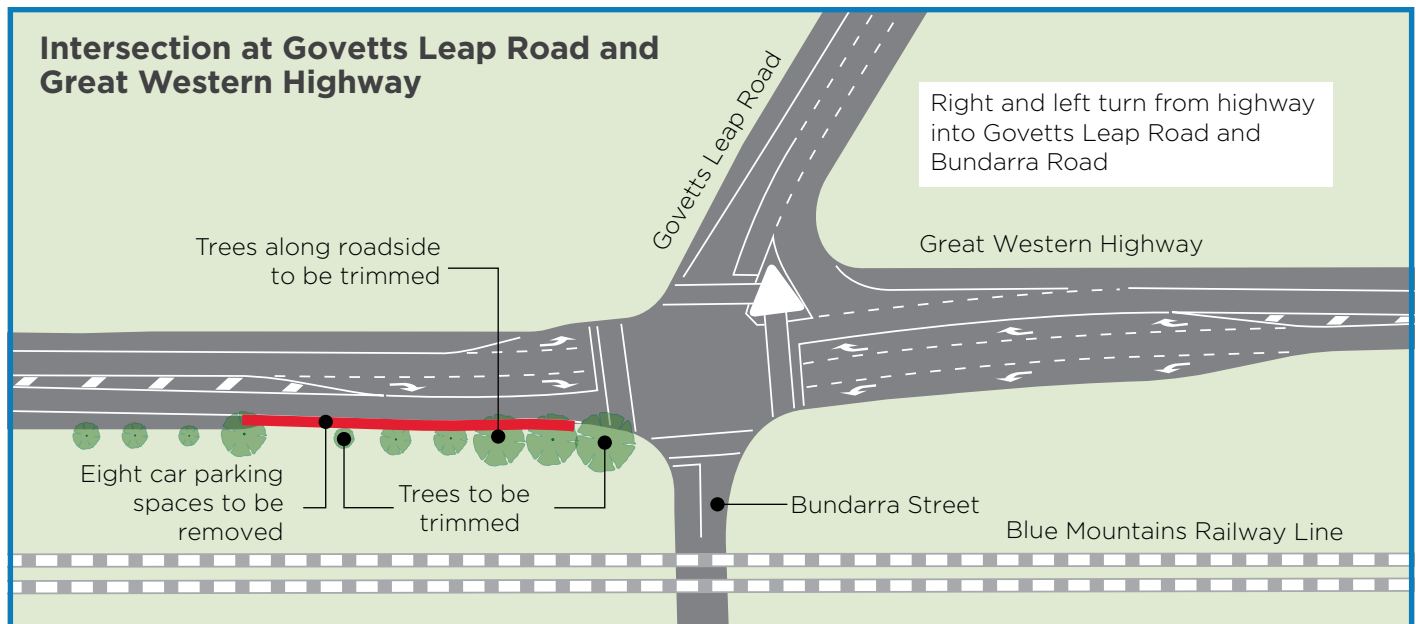


Improving
traffic flow

What is happening during the work?

Standard working hours on the project are between **7am and 6pm Monday to Friday** and **9am to 1pm** on **Saturdays**.

Roads and Maritime is committed to working with the community and will try to minimise the impact to nearby properties and traffic on the highway while work is being carried out.



Contact details

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More information is available at:



rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/western-nsw/katoomba-lithgow/katoomba-to-mount-victoria.html



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1800 035 733**.



Cutting excavation at Hill 33



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