Heathcote Road upgrade at Moorebank

Consultation Report February 2022





transport.nsw.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

Transport for NSW acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal people and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

Many of the transport routes we use today – from rail lines, to roads, to water crossings – follow the traditional Songlines, trade routes and ceremonial paths in Country that our nation's First Peoples followed for tens of thousands of years.

Transport for NSW is committed to honouring Aboriginal peoples' cultural and spiritual connections to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

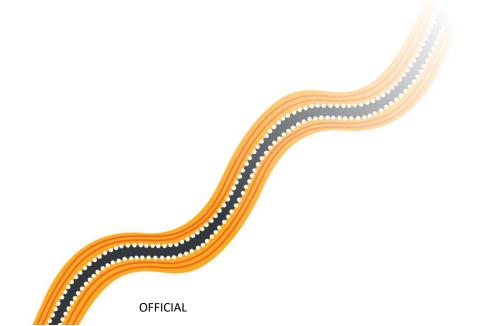


Table of Contents

1.	Executive summary
1.1	Way forward5
2.	Introduction 5
2.1	Background5
2.2	The proposal – recommended upgrade option6
2.3	Benefits
3.	Consultation approach7
3.1	Consultation aims7
3.2	Consultation activities7
3.3	Table 1–Consultation activities8
3.4	Overview9
3.5	Issues and responses10
4.	Decision and next steps15
5.	Appendices15
5.1	Appendix A – Community update August 202116
	17
5.2	Appendix B – Social media posts18
5.3	Appendix C – Project Website
5.4	Appendix D – Media Release August 202120

Document control

Authors	Aerotropolis & Southwest
Document owner	Transport for NSW
Approved by	Senior Manager Aerotropolis & Southwest
Document number	22.013
Document number	ISBN: 978-1-922549-63-1
Branch	Western Parkland City
Division	Greater Sydney
Review date	February 2024
Superseded documents	N/A

Versions

Version	Amendment notes		

Transport for NSW has identified a section of Heathcote Road, between The Junction Road and The M5, as a pinch point and has started early planning to widen to four lanes, removing the bottleneck to improve traffic flow and increase safety.

The proposed upgrade will contribute to reduced congestion and improved efficiency along the corridor. Changes at the Junction Road intersection include the installation of traffic lights with designated turning lanes and safer access to the service road via Centenary Road (no entry from Heathcote Road – exit only). Active transport improvements at this section include widening and realignment of the shared path between Heathcote Road and Anzac Creek, as well as a wide shoulder to allow for future onroad cyclists.

These solutions will help facilitate improved movement and a safe and efficient environment for all road users.

A Community Update and Options Identification Report were published in August 2021. Transport received 14 submissions in response to the display of the preferred option, which are detailed in Section 4.2.

1.1 Way forward

In September 2021 formal community and stakeholder information sessions were held online by the project team to provide information and respond to any questions about the proposal. Transport for NSW will take the community and stakeholder feedback into account as the design for the upgrade is progressed. A strategic business case will be prepared for the project as part of the NSW Government's framework for making and prioritising infrastructure investment decisions.

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

Transport for NSW is currently developing the Heathcote Road corridor strategy. The strategy will set out the NSW Government's long-term plan for Heathcote Road in order to manage and guide improvements to safety, traffic efficiency and sustainability.

The Heathcote Road corridor is approximately 24km long and connects Newbridge Road at Liverpool with the Princes Highway at Heathcote. It provides an interchange with the M5 Motorway and connectivity to the M6 corridor via New Illawarra Road. The corridor passes through Liverpool City Council and Sutherland Shire Council.

The section of Heathcote Road between Moorebank Avenue/ Newbridge Road and Infantry Parade, Holsworthy is around 3.8 kilometres long and

generally a four lane, partially divided carriageway, with a 300-metre-long section just north of the M5 Motorway (between Junction Road and the M5 Motorway at Moorebank) which is currently a two-lane undivided road and the subject of the proposed upgrade.

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) is currently working on multiple upgrades along Heathcote Road from Moorebank to Heathcote; this proposal will complement the 2.2-kilometre section further south between Infantry Parade at Holsworthy and The Avenue at Voyager Point, which will open to traffic in 2024 as an upgraded four-lane divided road (including duplication of the bridges over Harris Creek, Williams Creek, and the T2 Airport railway line).

2.2 The proposal – recommended upgrade option

Investigations were carried out to help develop the Options Identification Report. These investigations determined the constraints of the project area and provided an outline and assessment of three strategic options which were identified. These options were evaluated against criteria covering the proposal objectives, costs, value, constructability, engineering constraints, minimisation of environmental impacts and impact on properties.

Of these options, Transport for NSW has determined that Option 2 is the preferred option for this proposal. The reasoning for choosing Option 2 is because it has the least impact overall due to the following:

- Minor property acquisitions
- Mainly offline construction
- Least impact to utilities
- Least amount of new full depth pavement
- Similar strategy and largely within the footprint of the six-lane corridor study
- Shortest length of new retaining walls

2.3 Benefits

The proposed upgrade based on Option 2 going ahead would:

- Reduce congestion and improve road safety
- Support and enhance use of public transport along the corridor
- Improve movement between Holsworthy and Liverpool for all road users
- Ensure a safe and efficient environment for all road users
- Investigate opportunities to improve active transport along the corridor, while still maintaining traffic flow.

3. Consultation approach

3.1 Consultation aims

Transport consulted with the community and stakeholders on the proposal to:

- seek comment, ideas and suggestions for consideration when making a decision on the final scope of work
- advise directly affected stakeholders of changes and/or proposals
- build a database of community members interested in the proposal to engage with during the proposal's development and delivery
- provide an opportunity for the community to learn more about the proposal, ask questions and provide submissions.

3.2 Consultation activities

Consultation on the proposal was carried out from Wednesday 25 August to Sunday 10 October 2021. An online information session was held in September 2021 to give community members and stakeholders a chance to learn more about the proposal, ask questions and provide submissions.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to carry out face to face engagement activities such as doorknocking and community information sessions. Instead, the consultation program was carried out in different ways via social media, project webpage, phoning and emailing stakeholders, and an online information session.

Prior to restrictions being enforced, the project team doorknocked and met with local businesses and raise awareness about the project. This engagement occurred in March 2021 and again in October 2021.

3.3 Table 1 - Consultation activities

Consultation activity	Summary	
State and local government	 Briefing meetings were carried out with Liverpool City Council officers in May 2021 and again in July 2021. Council was also represented at the Online Community Information Session held in September. Council provided a formal submission in support of the proposal overall, with suggestions noted for consideration. Transport will continue to consult with and work collaboratively with Council throughout the development of the proposal to ensure local interests are represented. The Member for Holsworthy Melanie Gibbons MP was briefed on the proposal and indicated her support for the future works in the media release announcing the start of consultation. 	
Interlink	In May 2021, a briefing meeting was carried out with Interlink who operate the M5 Motorway. The M5 Motorway is not directly impacted by the proposal; However, Interlink are considered a key stakeholder due to the close proximity of the M5 Motorway to the project area.	
Media release	A media release was distributed on 25 August 2021 by the Member for Holsworthy providing information about the proposal, invited community and stakeholders to attend the online information session and provide feedback on the preferred option.	
Project update	A community update was published in August providing information about the proposed improvements, inviting community members and stakeholders to attend the information	

Consultation activity	Summary	
	session, and provide feedback. This update was distributed to 3150 properties in Moorebank, Wattle Grove, Hammondville and Holsworthy on 7 September 2021.	
Direct consultation	The project team doorknocked businesses on 8 March 2021 and again on 11 October 2021, around the Junction Road intersection and along the service road. Emails were sent to 24 community members and stakeholders on the project database on 8 September 2021. Lockdowns associated with COVID-19 restricted in-person activities during this consultation and planned face to face information sessions from going ahead.	
Website	A project webpage was available at nswroads.work/heathcoteroadmoorebank	
Social media	3 advertisements were run on Facebook between 7 September and 10 October. Copies of the ads are in Appendix B.	
Online information session	An online information session was held on 14 September 2021 and provided the community with the opportunity to ask the project team questions and learn more about the proposal. The session was recorded and published on the project website for the duration of the consultation period. There were 17 participants during the live event who provided positive feedback about the session.	
Review of submissions	We received 14 submissions via email, all of which were reviewed and considered by the project team.	

3.4 Overview

During the consultation period, 14 submissions were received. The majority of this feedback supported the proposal. Key issues raised during the consultation period related to design, traffic impacts and active transport.

Transport for NSW

These issues and concerns have been summarised and the responses on these identified in Table 3.5.1.

3.5 Issues and responses

lssue category	Sub-issue	Issues raised	Response
Design	Turning from Junction to Heathcote Road	A left-turn lane should be constructed between the creek crossing and Heathcote Road.	2 This was considered as part of the intersection design, however, following consultation with stakeholders it was determined that this might further encourage traffic movements along Nuwarra Road. This road is already experiencing a lot of rat-running. It should also be noted the main objective of this project is to improve capacity and safety along Heathcote Road. Additionally, Junction Road is a local road managed by Liverpool Council, and requests related to local roads need to be directed to Council.
	Roundabout solution	Suggested a 2-lane roundabout at Heathcote Road intersection to keep traffic moving.	3, 11 A signalised intersection at this location is preferred to improve safety and efficiency while minimising the impact on surrounding properties. Roundabout performance is sensitive to unbalanced traffic flows. It is expected this would occur at this intersection where the entering traffic from a dominant leg (Heathcote Road) would prevent traffic from the adjacent or another affected approach to the left of the dominant flow from entering the

Table 3.5.1: Issues and way forward

Tra	nsport
for	NSW

			roundabout. This situation results in excessive queues and delays in the affected approach. Building a roundabout at this location would also require significant property impacts in order to build it to the size required to meet Australian standards.
	Suggested design solution	This submission included a sketch which detailed suggested improvements for consideration by the project team.	9 The sketch outlined some key items which have been considered in the design and also aspects to be recorded for future investigation. The Options Identification Report describes the current proposal in more detail; page 44 of the Options Identification Report shows the design for Option 2 in further detail and the Preferred Option Report (to be published later this year) will describe the process and considerations for selection of the preferred option. Further refinement will take place in the next phase of the project, which is currently subject to funding.
	Junction Road	Suggested no entry to service road.	11, 14 The proposed upgrade will also remove entry to the service road and will only allow vehicles to exit from it; vehicles seeking to access the service road would need to use Centenary Avenue.
Safety	Intersection safety	Junction Road area has a high accident rate and requires action.	1, 13 Upgrading and installing traffic lights at the Junction Road intersection is a key part of the proposal and intends to improve safety at this intersection.

	Junction Road	Would the upgrade make any changes to turning right into Junction Road from Heathcote Road – currently a risky, tight right-turn	5 As part of the signalisation of Junction Road / Heathcote Road / the service road intersection, the right turn movement from Heathcote Road to Junction Road will be signalised, making this movement much safer than the current situation and help reduce crash rates.
Traffic	Flow of traffic	A sophisticated traffic management system will need to be installed across the four intersections with traffic lights in the section covered by the project, to ensure flow of traffic.	2 This issue has been considered, and further traffic analysis and investigations will be completed in the Concept Phase. This will determine the maximum green times for each intersection to allow for efficient movement in this corridor.
	Noise from M5	Road traffic noise from the M5 Motorway on the adjoining residential properties raised as an issue.	14 Road traffic noise from the M5 Motorway falls outside of the scope of this project; However, Transport for NSW views road traffic noise as an important environmental issue and addresses road traffic noise through a range of approaches via the Noise Abatement Program. To find out more about this program, please visit: <u>Noise abatement program - Reducing noise - Environment &</u> <u>heritage - About us - Roads and Waterways – Transport for NSW</u>
Active transport / Out of scope	Pedestrian bridge – connectivity East Hills to Liverpool	Needs of pedestrians and cyclists should be incorporated. A pedestrian bridge could connect East Hills	10 The needs of pedestrians and cyclists are important and will be considered when developing the project. Being a small 300 metre section on Heathcote Road at Moorebank (between Junction Road and the M5 Motorway), this project can only tie into existing active

		and Henry Lawson Drive to Liverpool.	transport infrastructure along Heathcote Road. This feedback will be forwarded to the active transport team for their consideration.
Out of scope	Junction Road, Nuwurra Road and Stockton Avenue	Traffic calming devices suggested to manage heavy vehicle traffic on Junction Road and Stockton Avenue	2, 14 Both Nuwarra Road and Junction Roads are Local Government controlled roads and are outside the scope of this project. Concerns related to heavy vehicle movements were forwarded to Council.
	Nuwurra Road	Nuwurra Road traffic island should be minimised or removed; safety and pollution concerns	4, 7 Nuwarra Road is outside of scope for this upgrade and is a local road managed by Liverpool Council. Requests regarding this intersection were forwarded to Council.
	Seton Road and traffic lights timings	Request for the Seton Road traffic lights be fixed as part of project. Experienced long wait sometimes for lights to change.	6 The Seton Road traffic signals fall outside of project scope and this feedback was forwarded to TfNSW's Network Operations team to investigate. The traffic light system was reset and updated to improve waiting time for vehicles at this location.
	Eastern end of Heathcote Road	Focus should be on the eastern end of Heathcote Road, closer to Heathcote itself	8 Upgrading the eastern part of Heathcote Road is currently being assessed and a strategic corridor plan is being developed. More information can be found at <u>nswroads.work/Heathcote</u>
	Heathcote Road at Church Road; and between Moorebank	High level of traffic from Church Road requires traffic lights for safer entry onto Heathcote Road. Seton Road	13 The Seton Road traffic signals fall outside of this project's scope - as does Church Road. We recently forwarded similar feedback to our

	Avenue and Junction Road	lights inadequately timed to control traffic flow. Pedestrian safety is of concern. Inadequate footpaths and pedestrian crossing assistance are unsafe.	Network Operations team, who have since made some system updates at the Seton Road intersection to improve performance. We are still in early planning and all solutions identified in this stage will be further investigated in the next phase (subject to funding).
	Heathcote Road at Centenary Avenue	Consider extending project scope to include consideration and provision of a dedicated right turn lane or phase into Centenary Avenue	14 The proposal is intended to address a specific pinch point along the Heathcote Road corridor and as such, the scope cannot be extended to Centenary Road.
Consultation	Display period during COVID lockdowns	Request for additional consultation once lockdown restrictions ease.	12 Consultation on the preferred option is the first stage in the consultation process for project development. There will be further opportunities for the community to comment as the design progresses. We encourage the community to register their interest with the project to receive future updates and consultation opportunities.

4. Decision and next steps

Transport appreciates the time taken to consider the proposal and we thank the community for providing feedback during the consultation period.

We recognise the importance of progressing the Heathcote Road upgrade at Moorebank to help facilitate improved movement and a safe, and efficient environment for all road users, including cyclists.

Reviewing community and road users' feedback has been an integral step in informing the widening and realignment of the shared path between Heathcote Road and Anzac Creek. The feedback captured as provided better understanding of the issues in the area.

We will continue to work with Liverpool City Council and local stakeholders while progressing the proposal. The community will continue to be updated as the project progresses.

5. Appendices

(Overleaf)

5.1 Appendix A – Community update August 2021

NSW

Transport for NSW

> Transport for NSW Heathcote Road upgrade at Moorebank

August 2021



eathcote Road at Moorebank looking south towards the M5 Motorway

Transport for NSW is investigating a future upgrade of Heathcote Road, Moorebank between Junction Road and the MS Motorway. Improving this 300m section would improve safety and traffic flow. You can have your say on the proposed upgrade and meet our team at an online community information session on Tuesday 14 September.

Benefits

community including:

unnamed service road

and Improved road safety

Holsworthy and Liverpool.

A future upgrade would provide benefits to the

 Reduced congestion on Heathcote Road for buses, freight vehicles and motorists

Safer and more convenient crossings for pedestrians

Safer access to and from Junction Road and the

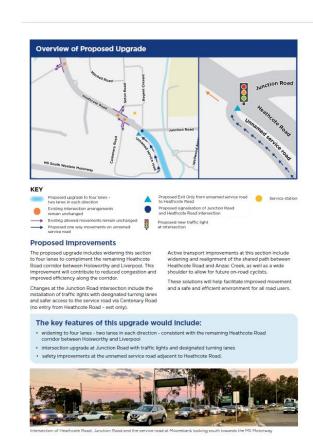
• a consistent two lanes in each direction between

Project background

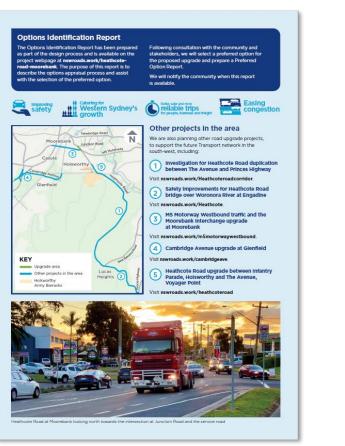
Heathcote Road is two lanes in each direction between Newbridge Road at Moorebank and infanty Parade at Holsworthy, with the exception of a 300m section between Junction Road and the MS Motorway, Moorebank that only has a single lane in each direction.

Transport for NSW has identified this section of Heathcote Road as a pinch point and has started planning to widen the road here to four lanes, to remove this bottleneck.

Further background information is available online at nswroads.work/heathcoteroadmoorebank.



Pages 1 and 2





Pages 3 and 4

...

Transport for NSW

5.2 Appendix B – Social media posts



•••

LEARN MORE



Heathcote Road upgrade Have your say by 10 October

Ad 1 – Start of consultation

Post reach: 17,109



Have your say on the proposed Heathcote Road upgrade which includes new lanes, intersection upgrades and more! Submissions close 10 Oct.



Ad 2 - Reminder



Last chance to submit your feedback on the proposal to upgrade Heathcote Rd, Moorebank. Submissions close midnight 10 October. 6/10

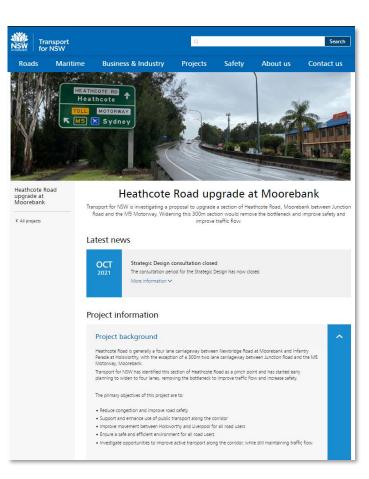
...



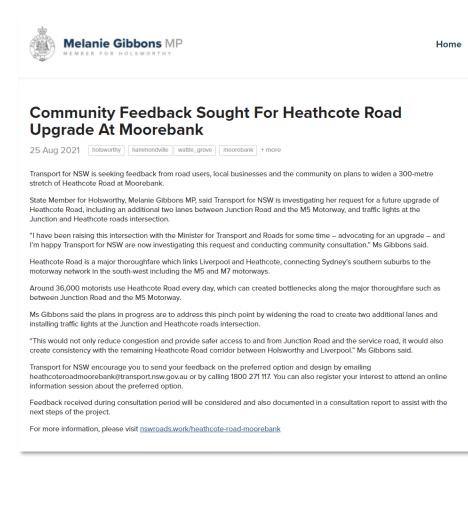
Ad 3 – Last chance

Transport for NSW

5.3 Appendix C – Project Website



5.4 Appendix D – Media Release August 2021



© Transport for New South Wales

Users are welcome to copy, reproduce and distribute the information contained in this report for non-commercial purposes only, provided acknowledgement is given to Transport for NSW as the source.

