



Pacific Highway improvements at Hexham (Hexham Straight) – Community feedback on strategic design

The Australian and NSW governments are planning for an upgrade of the section of the Pacific Highway (Maitland Road) known as Hexham Straight between the Newcastle Inner City Bypass and Hexham Bridge.

Transport for NSW is developing the six kilometre widening project, which would see Maitland Road widened to three lanes in both directions between the Newcastle Inner City Bypass and Hexham. The proposal would improve traffic flow along this critical route, deliver more reliable travel times for freight, and increase safety for all road users, including cyclists and pedestrians.

The Hexham Straight widening will be delivered as part of the Australian and NSW governments' commitment to deliver the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace and surrounding upgrades. The Australian Government has committed \$1.6 billion and the NSW Government \$400 million to build both projects, delivering safer and more efficient journeys for thousands of motorists.

The Pacific Highway (Maitland Road) is a critical link in the National Land Transport Network, providing access to and from the Port of Newcastle, and is among the busiest transport corridors carrying some of the highest traffic volumes in the Hunter.

Key features

- Widening six kilometres of Maitland Road from four to six lanes
- Demolition and replacement of the existing bridge over Ironbark Creek
- Relocation of public utilities
- U-turn facilities on Sparke Street, Shamrock Street and Old Maitland Road
- Modifications to existing intersections along the route
- Improved cyclist and pedestrian connectivity.

Community feedback

Stakeholders and the community were invited to provide their feedback on the strategic design between December 2020 and February 2021. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to provide feedback.

We received 45 submissions about a range of issues including:

- Suggestions about improving access for residents and motorists along Shamrock Street, Fenwick Street, Merchant Street and Old Maitland Road
- Suggestions about improving traffic flow at the Newcastle Inner City Bypass intersection with Maitland Road
- Suggestions for off-road cycle paths including dedicated separated shared pathways within the project as well as improving access for northbound cyclists over the Hunter River Bridge at Hexham
- Concerns about construction and operational impacts such as noise, flooding and dust impacts.

Project status

We received a high number of submissions about the status and progress of the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace project. The Australian Government has committed \$1.6 billion and the NSW Government \$400 million to build the extension and improve Hexham Straight, delivering safer and more efficient journeys for thousands of motorists.

The Environmental Impact Statement for the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace is scheduled to be displayed for community and stakeholder comment in mid-2021.

What happens next?

We will continue developing the concept design and environmental assessment, considering the community feedback received. We plan to display the environmental assessment for community feedback later this year. We will continue keep the community informed as the project progresses.

Timing of construction is not confirmed and is dependent on a range of factors including planning approval.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact our Project team on 1800 515 141 (during business hours) or hexhamstraight@transport.nsw.gov.au.

For more information about this project, visit nswroads.work/Hexham.



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 515 141.