

New England Highway – Muswellbrook bypass – Community feedback on preferred option

The NSW Government is delivering a New England Highway bypass of Muswellbrook. The bypass would improve travel times, freight efficiency and safety for all road users.

Transport for NSW identified a preferred option of the New England Highway bypass of Muswellbrook and displayed the design for community feedback in late 2020.

Community feedback

Stakeholders and the community were invited to provide their feedback on the preferred option from 23 November to 18 December 2020. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to provide feedback.

We received 22 submissions about a range of issues including:

- support for the proposal
- suggestion for a bypass connection at Coal Road to link to the Muswellbrook town centre and to provide emergency services access
- suggestion for the bypass to be dual carriageway with two lanes in each direction
- suggestion for bypass to include overtaking/passing lanes
- concern that the project impacts on the safety of accesses between the New England Highway and local roads, including Milpera Drive, Burtons Lane and Koolbury Flats Row.

After considering all submissions, along with the proposal objectives, design requirements and site constraints, we carried out additional investigations and considered design changes to address the feedback we received. A summary of our findings and responses to issues raised is available in our Community Consultation Report published on the project webpage.

Recommendations

The following design features will be incorporated into the proposal:

- a connection at Coal Road that allows for all traffic movements to be made, to improve access to and from the bypass for residents, businesses and emergency services
- connection of Burtons Lane with the New England Highway has been amended to join to the proposed roundabout at the northern connection providing improved safety
- connection of Koolbury Flats Row with the New England Highway has been moved further north providing improved safety
- connection of Milpera Drive with the New England Highway is to the south of the existing connection to provide a safer intersection arrangement. Right and left turning lanes have been provided to assist vehicle turning movements and improve the safety of access.

Next steps

The above features will be included as part of the design and environmental assessment for the proposal which will be displayed for your feedback in late 2021.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact our Project team on 1800 517 222 (during business hours) or Muswellbrook.Bypass@aecom.com. For more information about this project, visit nswroads.work/muswellbrook.