

New England Highway safety upgrade

Project update - start of work

Roads and Maritime Services | November 2018

Saving lives on country roads is a priority for the NSW Government. Motorists are benefitting from road safety improvements on the New England Highway.



Completed safety improvement work east of Uralla on the New England Highway. Work included, road widening, drainage improvement, resealing the road and wide centre line treatment.

Saving Lives on Country Roads

Roads are crucial to everyday life for country people. Fewer transport options means people living outside major centres rely on the vast country road network.

The fatality rate on country roads is four times that of metropolitan roads. On average, more than 70 per cent of the deaths on country roads are locals.

The NSW Government has developed the Saving Lives on Country Roads program to tackle this shocking statistic. The program is delivering a package of safety improvements for high risk country roads.

The aims of the safety improvements is to increase the separation of oncoming vehicles, alert drivers when they leave a lane, and minimise the impact of mistakes.

In the next two years \$16 million will be spent to improve safety on the New England Highway between Wallabadah and Armidale. The first stage of these improvements started in August this year between Uralla and Armidale and will be completed by early 2019.

Uralla to Armidale

The NSW Government is delivering an \$8.5 million package of safety work on the New England Highway between Armidale and Uralla.

The safety package consists of:

- Widened centre line throughout the entire section, enhanced with audio tactile line marking at a number of locations
- Two additional overtaking lanes, one northbound and one southbound between Rocky River Road and Arding Road
- A designated left hand turning lane for Barley Fields Road
- A right hand turning lane for Northeys Road and Kliendienst Road
- Road widening and drainage improvement directly north east of Uralla
- Widening of the bridge over Saumarez Creek.

Work to date

Roads and Maritime started work in August this year on a one kilometre section of highway north east of Wood Street Uralla.

Improvements to the drainage, road widening and resealing have been carried out. New line marking has provided a wide centre line which has proved to significantly reduce the occurrence of head on crashes.

Work on a section of highway near Northeys Road to widen the road in preparation for a right hand turning lane, and an overtaking lane has also started.

The addition of a right hand turning lane at Northeys and Kliendienst roads means turning vehicles will be separated from the highway traffic, reducing the likelihood of rear end crashes.

Next stages

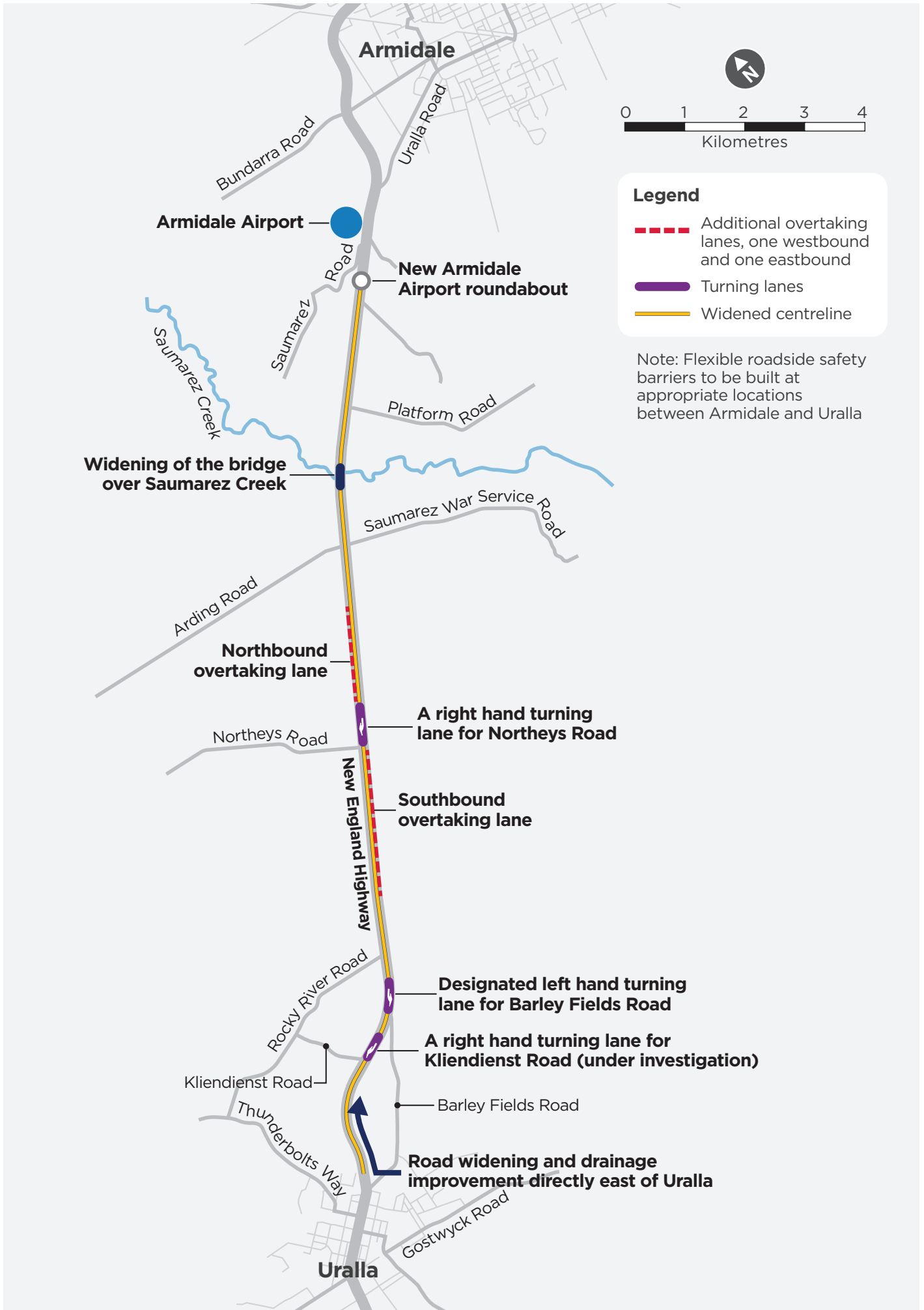
For the remainder of the year work will focus on:

- Building two new overtaking lanes. The additional lane north of Northeys Road will start first, then work will move to the lane south of Northeys Road
- Widening of the bridge over Saumarez Creek to increase the separation of lanes
- Widening the road at Kliendienst Road to allow for the installation of the right hand turning lane.



Work to widen and reseal a section of New England Highway north east of Uralla

Armidale to Uralla safety upgrades map



Further work on New England Highway - Uralla to Wallabadah

Detailed planning is currently being carried out on key sections of the New England Highway between Uralla and Wallabadah to set out a safety improvement program of work for the next two years.

The NSW Government has committed \$7.5 million to improve road safety on this vital commuter and freight link for inland NSW.

The safety improvements will include incorporating wide centre lines to significantly reduce the occurrence of head on crashes.

A number of intersections will also be upgraded.

This planned work comes on top of the upgrade of the Moonbi Range earlier this year. This windy, steep section of highway is now wider and safer with improved drainage. A substantial amount of work was also carried out to stabilise the rock face adjoining the highway.



New England Highway new wide centre line treatment entering Uralla



New culverts to improve drainage and widen the road between Uralla and Armidale



Moonbi Range upgrade, rock face excavation

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