



Transport for NSW

Newell Highway Upgrade Pilliga Widening

Project update | February 2022



Aerial view of the Newell highway through the Pilliga

The NSW Government has funded \$8.8 million to design a wider, safer road along the Newell Highway between Coonabarabran and Narrabri, also known as Pilliga Widening.

Project Background

The Newell Highway is the longest highway in NSW and is a vital transport corridor between Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, as well as a major interstate freight corridor between Melbourne and Brisbane.

A substantial section of the highway between Coonabarabran and Narrabri consists of a narrow road with steep, high embankments and without sufficient barrier protection.

The narrow road contributes to increased risk for road users and safety concerns due to crashes on this high speed, two lane road.

The Pilliga Widening project will improve safety along this corridor through the provision of a wider road that includes a one metre wide centerline and flatter slopes on embankments.

Concept Design Work

In August 2021, Transport for NSW started concept design work for the Pilliga Widening project which is expected to be completed by early 2024.

Transport for NSW has partnered with Arup to lead the concept design work.



Arend Boog, Project Manager Transport for NSW & Peter Whitson, Senior Project Manager from Arup

Project Scope

The project design includes widening the existing alignment with the inclusion of a one metre wide centreline.

Seven sections will be assessed as part of the work. These sections are between approximately 10 kilometres north of Coonabarabran and five kilometres south of Narrabri – or more easily identified along the Newell Highway from the Oxley Highway junction to the Kamilaroi Highway junction.



Example of a one metre wide centreline treatment

Key Benefits

The Pilliga Widening Project will provide:

- improved travel time
- improved road safety
- improved access for heavy vehicles by improving substandard road formations
- reduced vehicle operating costs by providing a wider formation and reducing roughness
- support for up to 50 jobs during the design phase.

Project Timeline

The survey and geotechnical investigations are now being carried out which will take approximately six months to complete – September 2021 to March 2022.

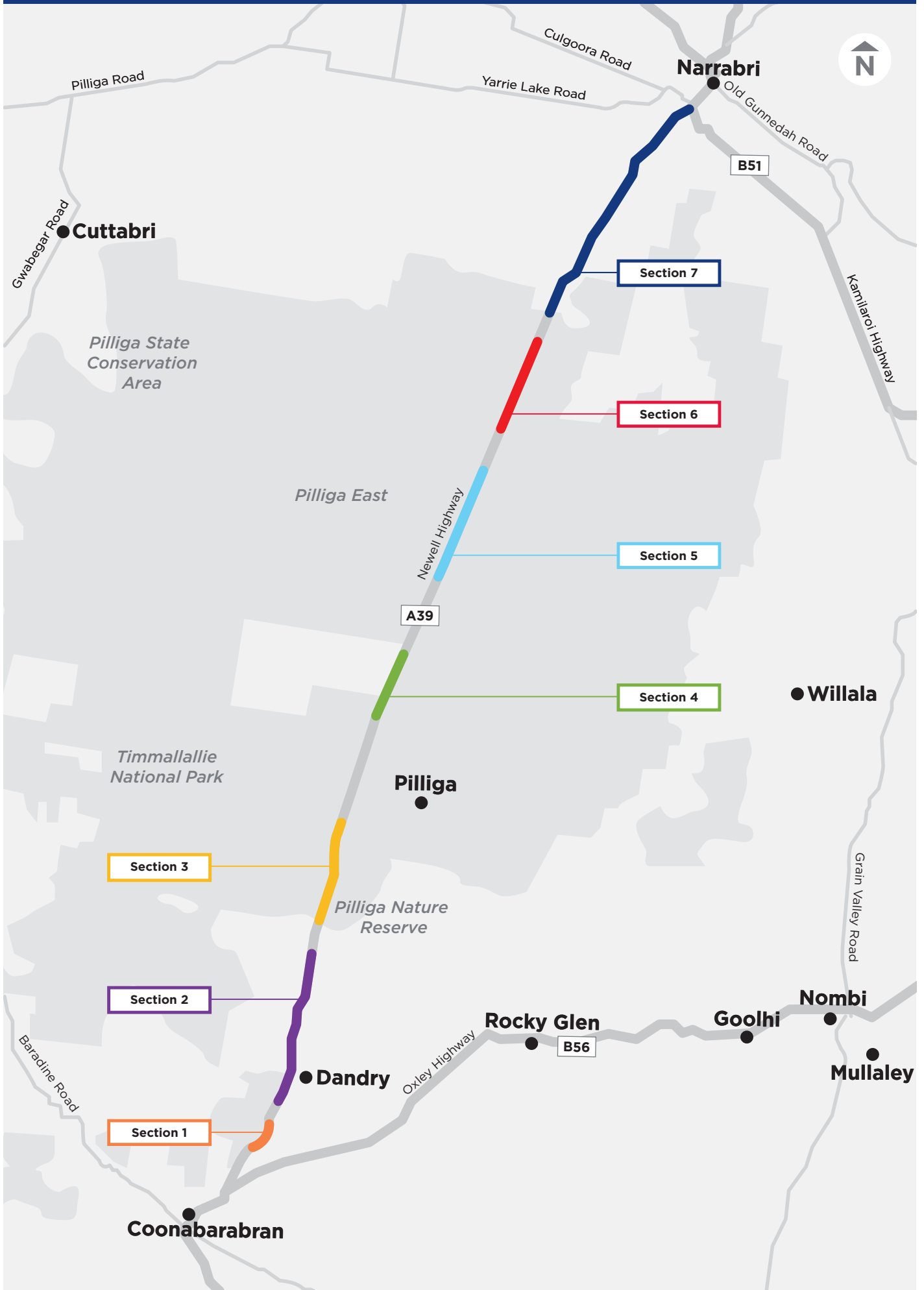
Project design options are now being developed to inform a concept design.

Following confirmation of the preferred option, the community will be invited to comment on the Concept Design and Review of Environmental Factors (REF) by June 2023.

Key Milestones



Pilliga Widening, Newell Highway



Investigation Work

Investigation work will be carried out to assist in planning the highway widening design including field surveys, geotechnical testing and environmental assessments.

Locations and Timing

The investigation will be carried out along the seven identified sections of the Newell Highway between Coonabarabran and Narrabri.

Work will take place at various times between the hours of **6am** and **6pm Monday to Sunday**. The works will be carried out throughout 2022, weather permitting.

Access to properties in these locations will be maintained at all times during work hours.

Traffic Changes

There may be some temporary traffic changes to ensure the work zone is safe, including speed reductions and lane closures during work hours.

Please keep to speed limits and follow the direction of traffic controllers and signs. For the latest traffic updates, you can call **132 701**, visit **livetraffic.com** or download the **Live Traffic NSW App**.



Survey works in progress on the Newell Highway between Coonabarabran and Narrabri

Covidsafe Planning

Work crews will be adhering to strict Covid-19 protocols with approved Covid-19 safety plans in place. The program of work is subject to change in response to any further government restrictions that may be put in place to manage Covid-19.

Keeping you informed

Transport for NSW is committed to keeping the Coonabarabran and Narrabri local communities well informed and up to date with project progress.


Project information and updates will be made available via the project website as well as direct communications to stakeholders.

Other Transport for NSW Projects in progress along this corridor

- The Newell Highway Program Alliance is constructing two new overtaking lanes between Coonabarabran and Narrabri. Construction is expected to start March 2022 and will take 14 months to complete.
- Transport called for tenders for the Coonabarabran Bypass Stage 1 design in November 2021
- Construction is expected to start on the Newell Highway Heavy Duty Pavement Upgrades Stage 1, Narrabri to Moree in June 2022.

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Pilliga Widening project please contact the project team on:

 1800 741 636 (option #2)

 newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au

 nswroads.work/pilliga

Thank you for your patience during this important work.



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 741 636.

February 2022
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