



Preferred option confirmed

Option C (Refined) has been confirmed as the preferred option for the second road over rail bridge in Gunnedah. This was released for comment as the recommended option in August 2014. Community feedback was carefully considered in this decision.

In this community update:

- Map of the preferred option
- Why the preferred option was chosen.

Current status

The new route for the preferred option extends from an upgraded roundabout on the Oxley Highway to a new bridge over the rail line west of the Gunnedah Maize Mill joining Warrabungle Street with a new roundabout at the intersection of Conadilly and Warrabungle Streets. The preferred option would maintain access to Barber Street via a new intersection just north of the Gunnedah Maize Mill (map overleaf).

The preferred option is detailed in the *Preferred Option Report* (November 2014) available on the Roads and Maritime website.

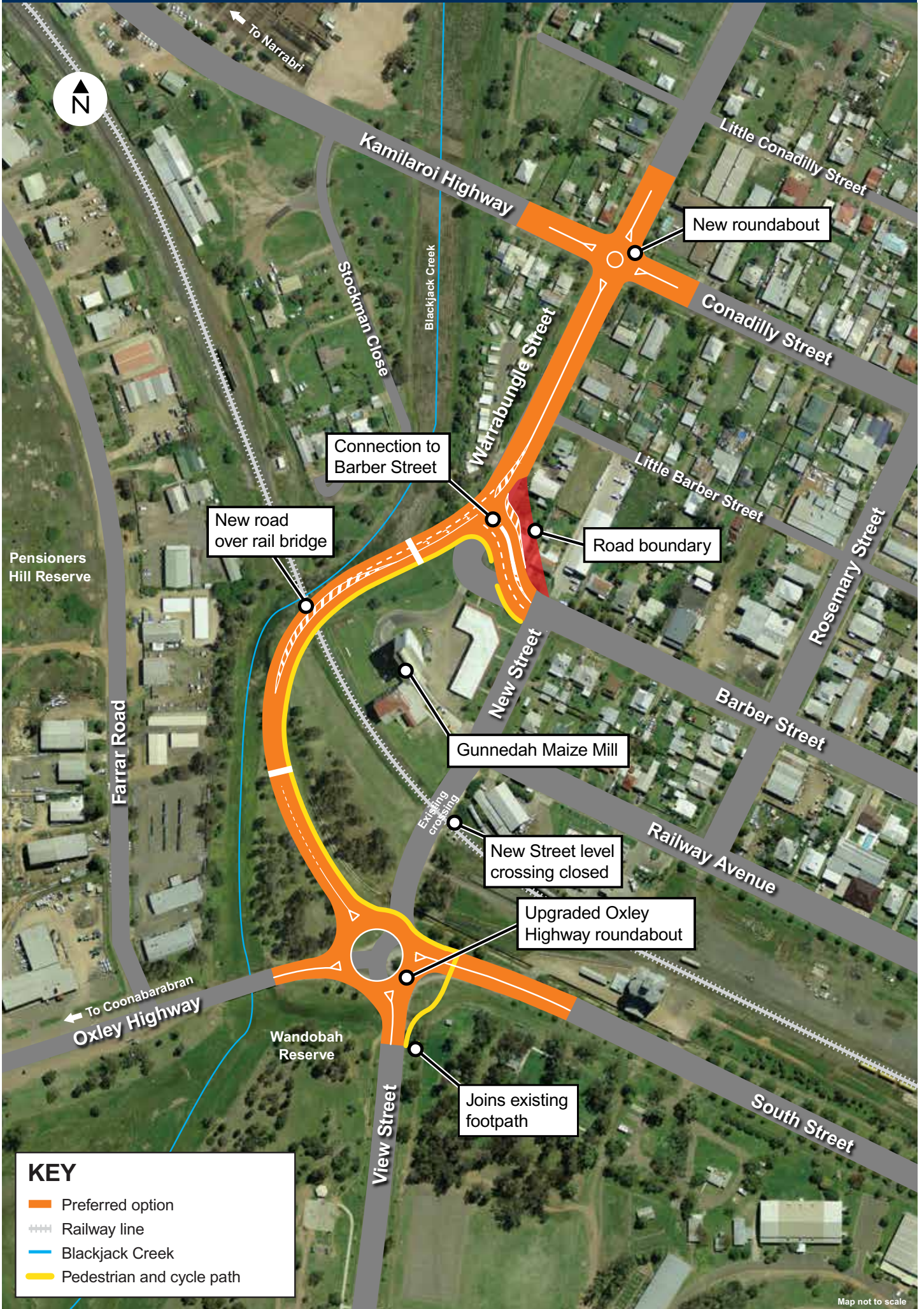
Roads and Maritime would like to thank the community of Gunnedah for their involvement in this process and the identification of a preferred option.

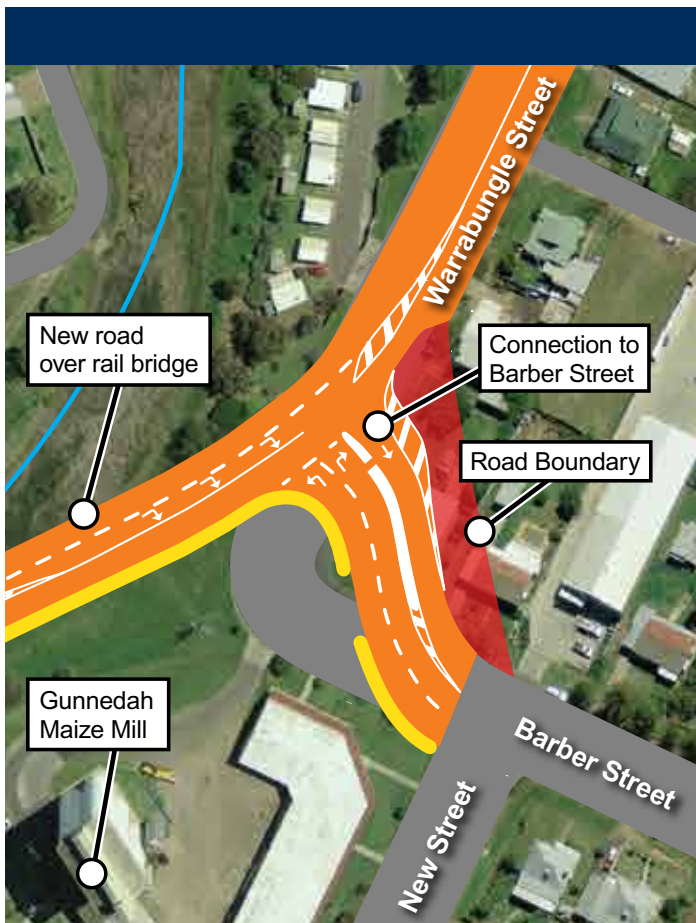
Benefits of the preferred option

The preferred option considers the environment, community and technical constraints of the study area and provides the following benefits:

- Fulfils the project objectives of providing a dedicated HML route and improving traffic efficiency and road safety in Gunnedah
- Reduces the project footprint and minimises environmental impacts near the Oxley Highway
- Avoids core koala habitat in the Wandobah Reserve
- Minimises Blackjack Creek flooding effects
- Maintains direct access to/from the Barber Street business precinct
- Improves efficiency by minimising impact to existing infrastructure, including the Oxley Highway roundabout, View Street connection and culvert across Blackjack Creek
- Includes a pedestrian and cycle path.

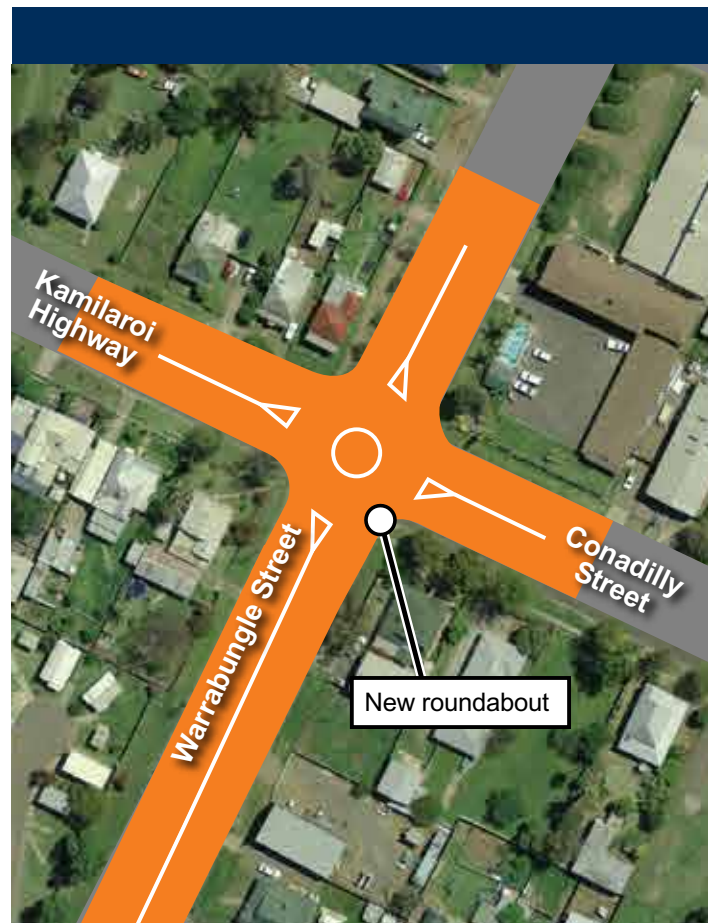
Preferred option





Barber Street intersection

Access would be maintained from the new route to Barber Street through an intersection just north of the Gunnedah Maize Mill. The intersection would allow for all vehicle movements and it would have a dedicated right turning lane from the new route into Barber Street. Two properties would need to be acquired to provide a safe intersection with Barber Street. Roads and Maritime Services will continue to liaise with affected property owners as the project progresses.



Conadilly Street and Warrabungle Street roundabout

The proposed roundabout at Conadilly and Warrabungle Streets will be constructed in advance of the new bridge.

This will improve road safety for the community at this location. Roads and Maritime will be contacting adjacent landowners as the design progresses.

Background

Roads and Maritime Services (Roads and Maritime) has undertaken an extensive assessment of the options for a second road over rail bridge in Gunnedah.

A second road over rail bridge would provide an unrestricted Higher Mass Limit (HML) route through the town and significantly improve local traffic efficiency and road safety. The new route would replace the existing New Street level crossing which would be permanently closed after the new bridge is opened.

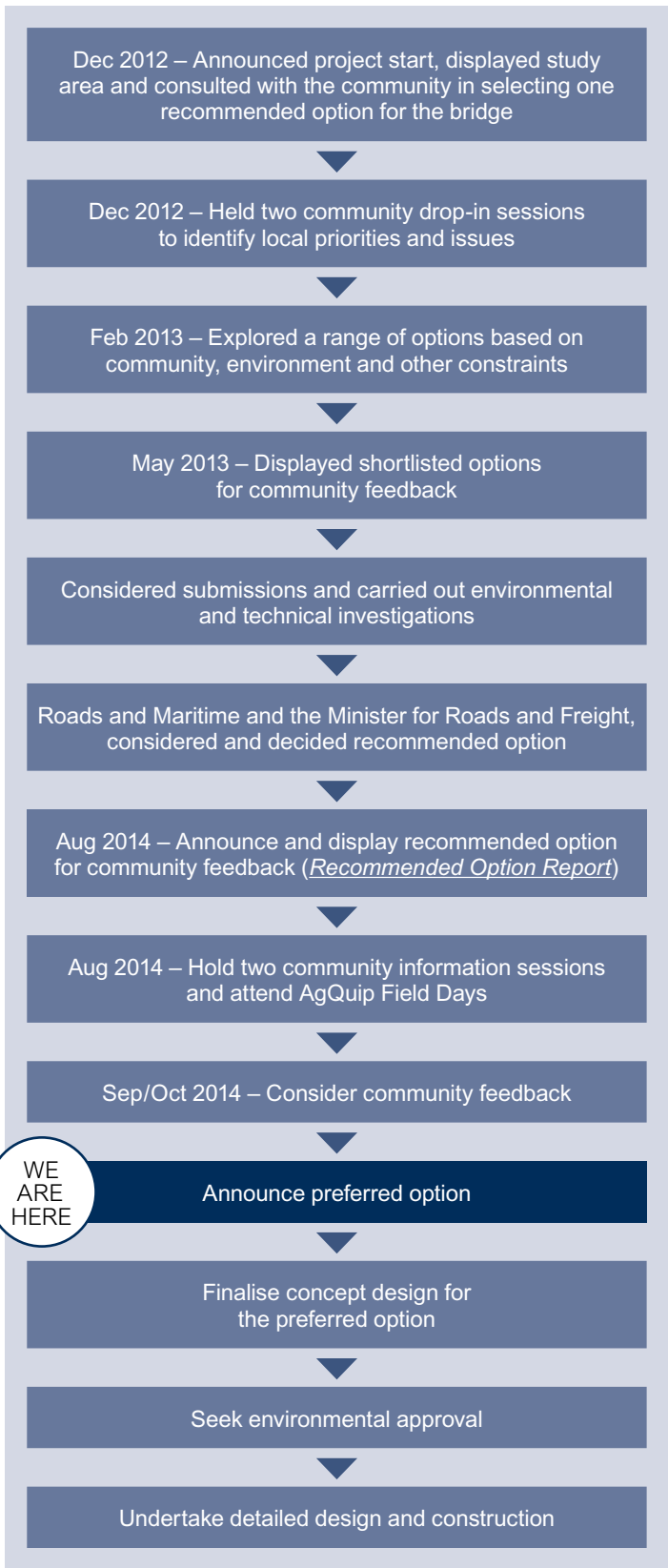
Assessing potential options for the new bridge involved a range of technical, environmental and social investigations including seeking feedback from the community, Gunnedah Shire Council, Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) and Transport for NSW at key stages of the project.

In August 2014, a recommended option for the new route was identified and displayed for community

comment. The recommended option was a refinement of Option C displayed in May 2013, altered to provide a connection to Barber Street through an intersection on Warrabungle Street. The need for access to Barber Street, following the closure of the New Street level crossing, was a key concern raised by several Barber Street businesses and Gunnedah Shire Council during community consultation.

As part of consultation on the recommended option in August 2014, Roads and Maritime provided a project display at the AgQuip Field Days and held community drop-in sessions to answer questions gather feedback.

Community feedback on the recommended option and Roads and Maritime responses to each issue raised by the community is summarised in the *Community Submissions Report* (November 2014) available on the Roads and Maritime website.



The *Preferred Option Report* (Roads and Maritime, 2014) will be on display at the following locations until 19 December 2014.

Gunnedah Shire Council
63 Eligin Street

Gunnedah Shire Library
291 Conadilly Street

Gunnedah Motor Registry
387 Conadilly Street

Staffed displays

2 December (4–7pm) and 3 December (9am–12pm)

Gunnedah Town Hall

www.rms.nsw.gov.au

Next steps

The next step is to finalise the concept design for the preferred option, seek the relevant environmental approvals, and undertake detailed design and construction.

Contact us

For more information please contact the project team at:

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WE ARE HERE



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