



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.

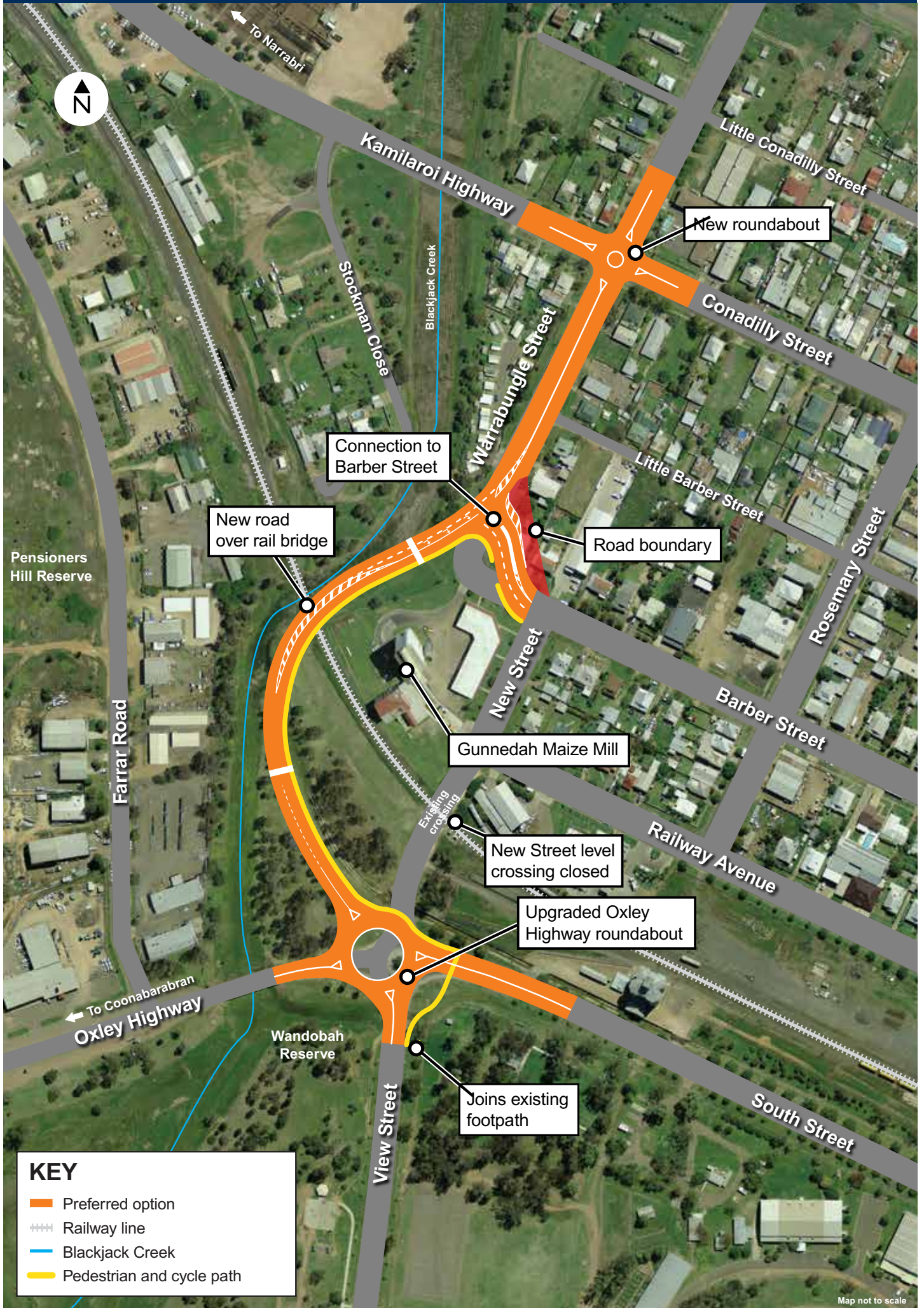
Roads and Maritime would like to thank the community of Gunnedah for their involvement in this process and the identification of a preferred option.

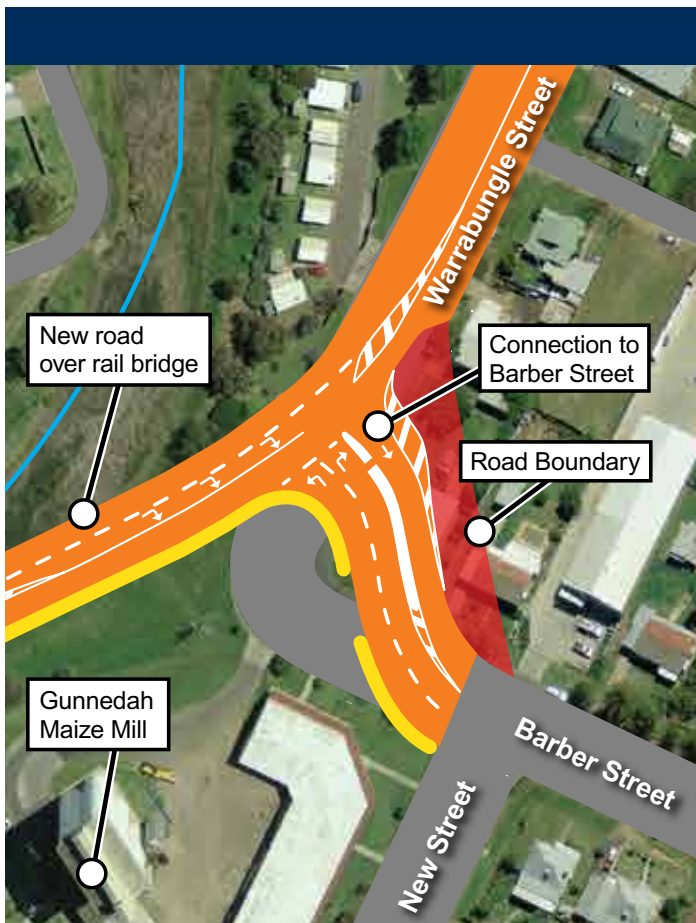
Benefits of the preferred option

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.

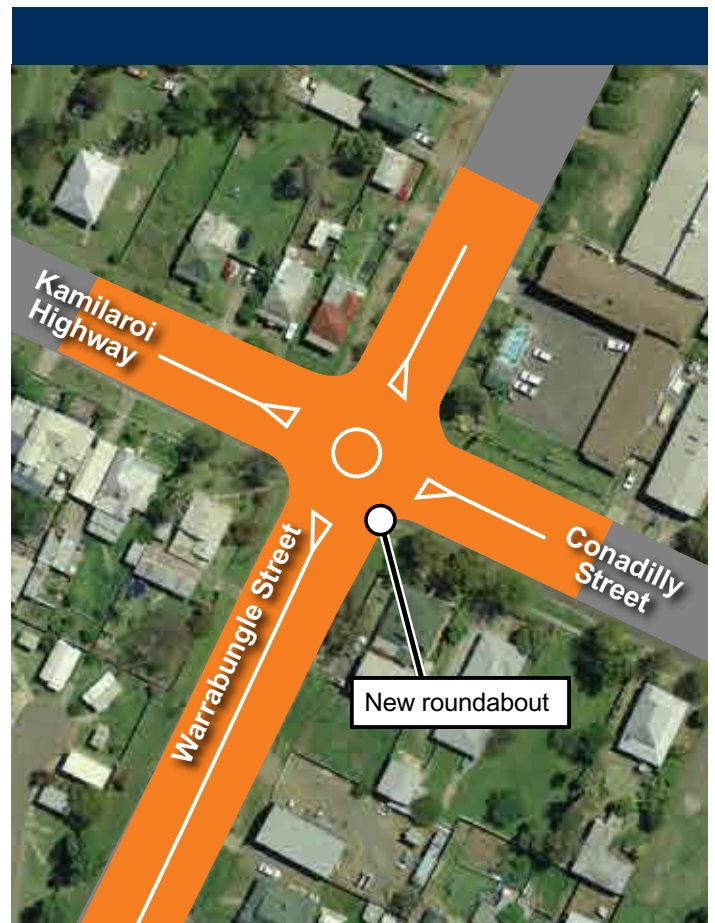
Preferred option





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.

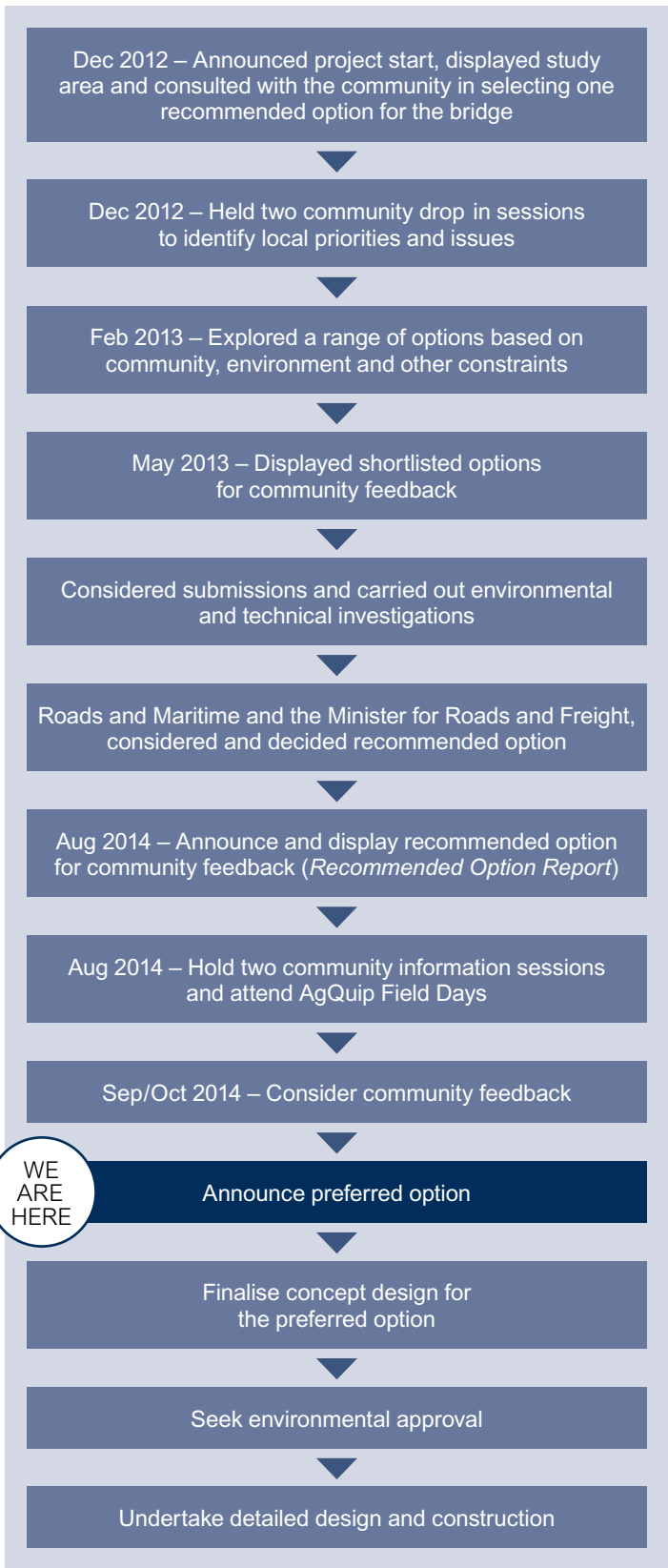
Assessing potential options for the new bridge involved a range of technical, environmental and social investigations including seeking feedback from the community, Gunnedah Shire Council, Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) and Transport for NSW at key stages of the project.

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:

Phone: 1800 029 585 (toll free)

Email: secondroadoverrailbridge@kbr.com

Web: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects

Post: Gunnedah second road over rail bridge project
Reply Paid 633
Brisbane QLD 4001



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Gunnedah second road over rail bridge – Recommended option

Roads and Maritime Services has identified a refined Option C as the recommended option for a second road over rail bridge in Gunnedah. We now invite your feedback before a final decision is made.

The project

In 2013 Roads and Maritime displayed three options – A, B and C – for community comment. During this time we also consulted Gunnedah Shire Council, the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), and Transport for New South Wales. Feedback provided during the comment period gave further insight into stakeholder views on the advantages and disadvantages of the options. Since this time Roads and Maritime has carried out a range of technical and environmental investigations to further assess these options.

For the project to meet its objectives of improving traffic efficiency and safety the New Street level crossing must be permanently closed when the new bridge is opened to traffic.

The impact of this closure on the Barber Street business precinct was a key concern raised by several Barber Street traders and Gunnedah Shire Council.

Feedback provided by the community combined with technical, environmental and social investigations has been carefully considered by the project team in identifying the recommended option.

Roads and Maritime has identified a refined Option C, which also provides access to Barber Street, that would best serve the needs of Gunnedah in the future.

This option has additional impacts on private property not previously considered during the 2013 comment period. As such, we are seeking further community input before a final decision is made.

The recommended option is detailed on the map overleaf.

Recommended option

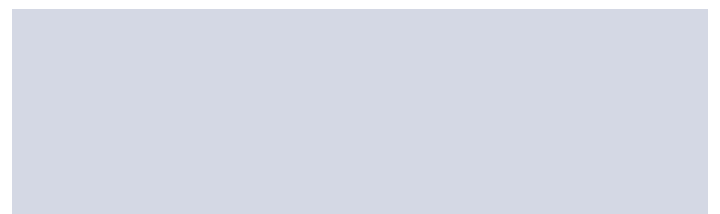
The refined Option C would be built over the rail line, west of the Gunnedah Maize Mill to connect the Oxley Highway roundabout with a new roundabout at the Conadilly and Warrabungle streets intersection. It would also maintain direct access to Barber Street.

The recommended option considered the environment, community and other constraints of the study area and was shown to:

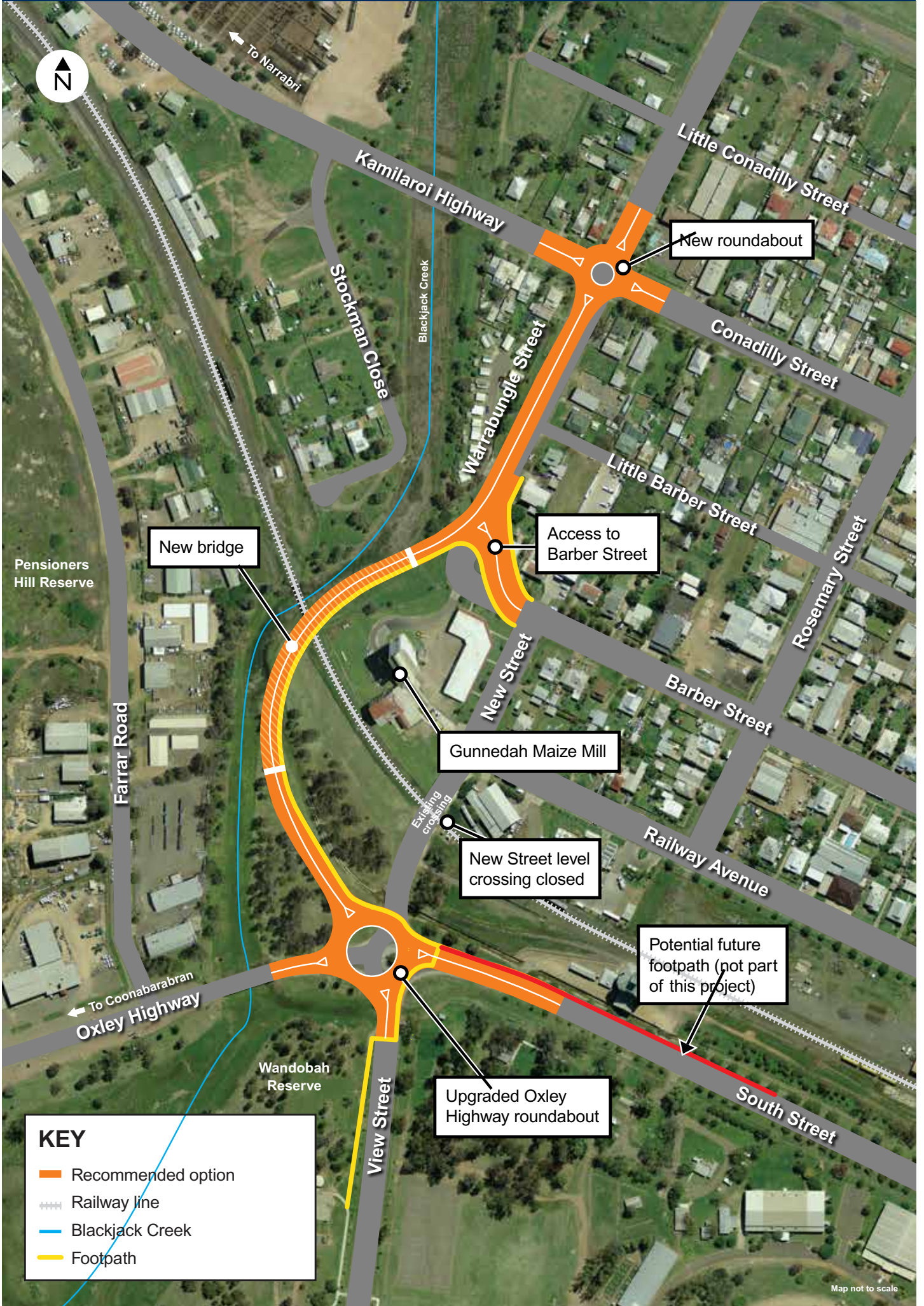
- Have a reduced project footprint and minimised environmental effects near the Oxley Highway
- Avoid core koala habitat in the Wandobah Reserve
- Minimise Blackjack Creek flooding effects
- Maintain direct access to the Barber Street business precinct
- Be easier to build and have an improved curve and appropriate railway clearance for the future duplicated rail line
- Have improved efficiency by minimising impact to existing infrastructure, including the Oxley Highway roundabout, View Street connection and culvert across Blackjack Creek.

Roundabouts at each end of the recommended option would enable efficient traffic movement between the residential and commercial areas of Gunnedah.

Pedestrian and cycle access would also be provided.



Option C (Refined)



Have your say

Roads and Maritime has identified a refined Option C as the recommended option for a second road bridge over the rail line in Gunnedah. We now invite your feedback

The project team will be available to answer your questions and receive your comments at the following times:

AgQuip Field Days – 19 to 21 August, Blackjack Road, west of Gunnedah.

Two community drop-in sessions:

When: Wednesday 27 August 2014
4–7pm (session 1)

Thursday 28 August
9am–12pm (session 2)

Where: **Gunnedah Town Hall**
Conadilly Street, Gunnedah

There will be no formal presentation.

Project information including the Recommended Option Report will also be on display at the following locations until 12 September 2014:

Gunnedah Shire Council
63 Eligin Street

Gunnedah Shire Library
291 Conadilly Street

Gunnedah Motor Registry
387 Conadilly Street

www.rms.nsw.gov.au

Do you have any further comments or suggestions? Is there anything you think is important and should be considered in finalising the preferred option?

Contact us

For more information or to comment, please contact the project team at:

Phone: 1800 029 585 (toll free)

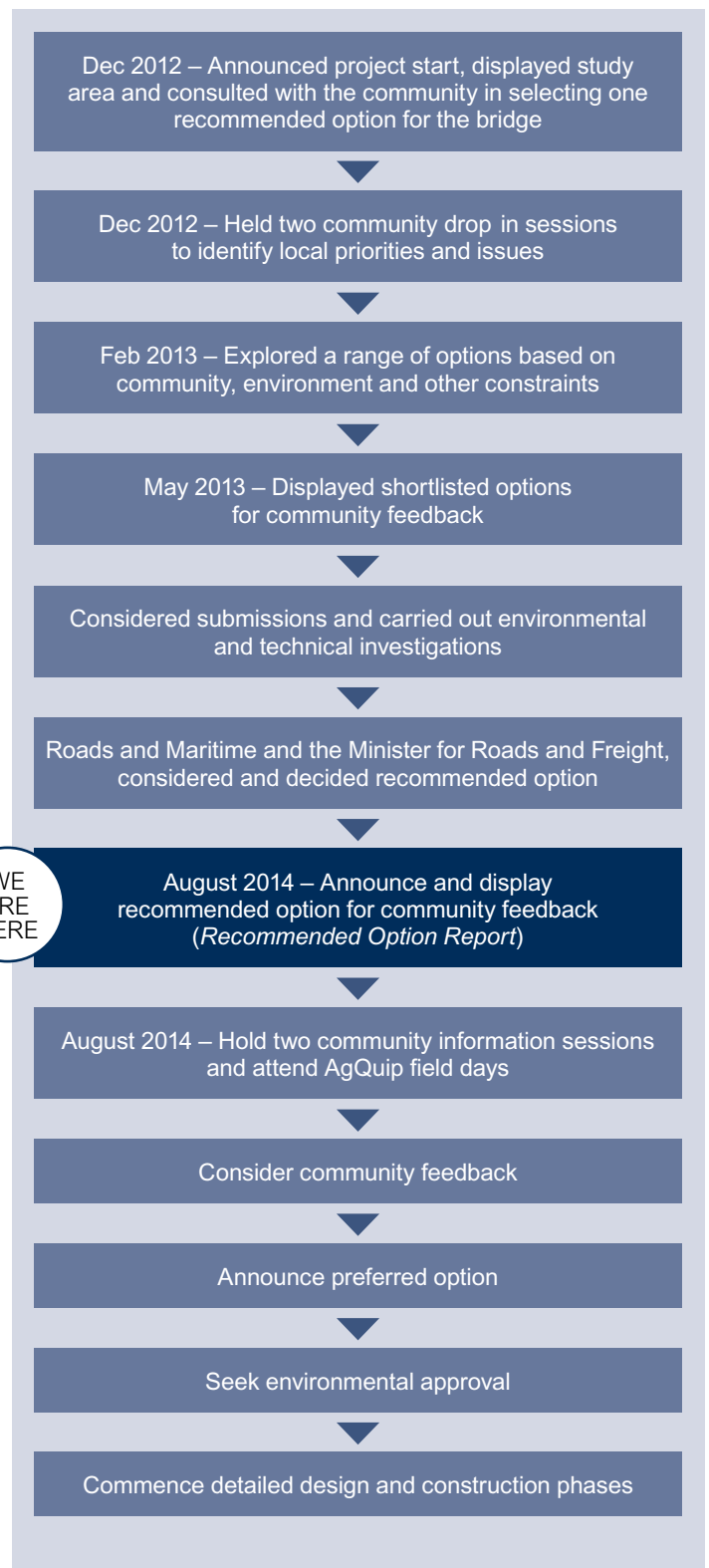
Email: secondroadoverrailbridge@kbr.com

Web: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects

Post: Gunnedah second road over rail bridge project
Reply Paid 633
Brisbane QLD 4001

Next steps

The recommended option is now on display for community comment. This feedback will be considered before a final decision is made later this year.



MAY 2013



Gunnedah Second Road Over Rail Bridge

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is working with Gunnedah Shire Council and the community to identify a preferred option for a road bridge over the rail line in Gunnedah.

Background

The NSW Government has allocated \$16 million for a second road over rail bridge in Gunnedah that will address traffic congestion issues, and provide a Higher Mass Limit (HML) route for heavy vehicles.

With major coal development occurring in the Gunnedah basin, the length of coal trains has been increasing, causing extended delays at Gunnedah's level crossings. The existing bridge at Abbott Street is not suitable for use by HML vehicles.

RMS has engaged Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd (KBR) to assist in the development of options for the second road over rail bridge. The development of options has considered community feedback on the study area released in December 2012, and a wide range of engineering, environmental and social constraints in the area.

The objectives of the project are:

- Provide a grade separated HML route through Gunnedah.
- Improve local traffic efficiency.
- Improve road safety.
- Improve road transport productivity, efficiency and reliability of travel.
- Minimise the impact on the natural, cultural and built environment.
- Provide value for money.

Current status

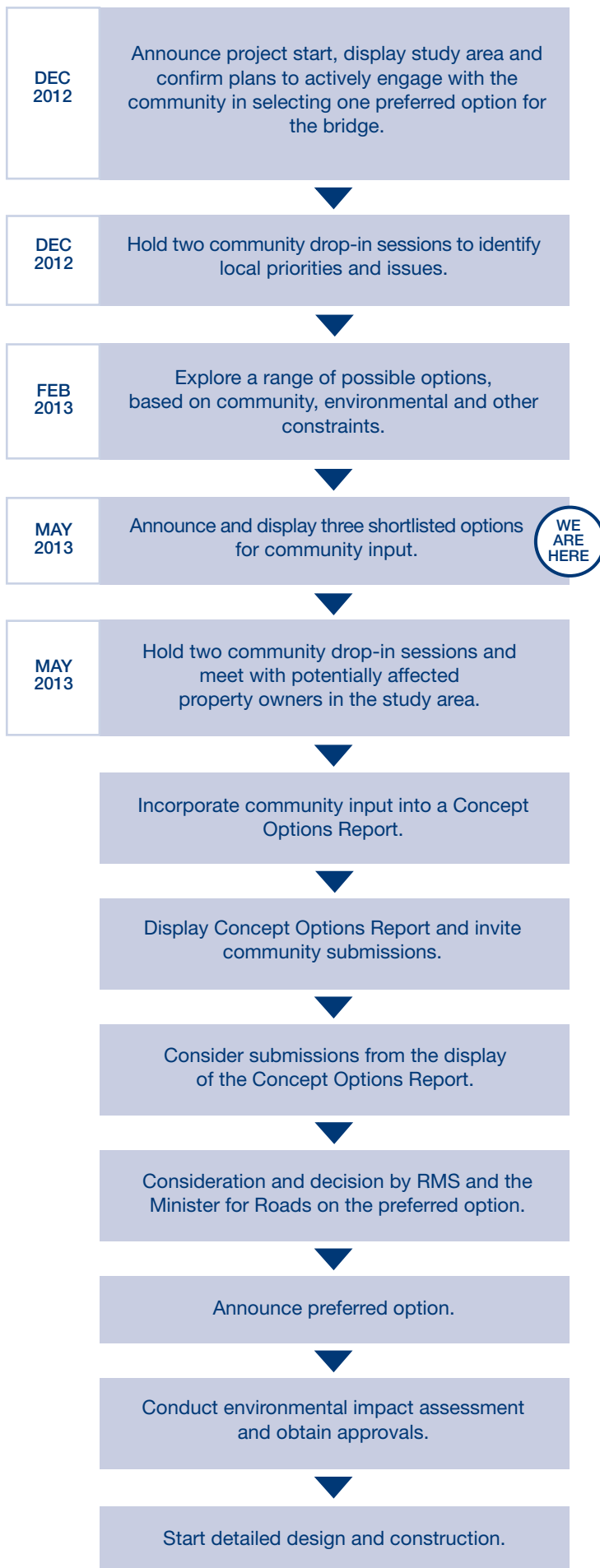
RMS and Gunnedah Shire Council held two community drop-in sessions in Gunnedah during December 2012. The sessions were attended by about 50 community members who talked to the project team and provided input regarding local priorities such as addressing traffic congestion, enhancing pedestrian safety, and minimising impacts on the community, local properties and businesses.

A wide range of possible bridge locations were considered, including those proposed by members of the community. Desktop studies were completed, examining potential impacts such as flooding, noise, traffic modelling, environment and heritage. These studies and community input were considered in order to shortlist the three preliminary options shown on the map within.

RMS is now seeking community input on the three preliminary options under consideration.

Further studies and field work will be undertaken to better understand the potential impacts of each of the three options. These studies and community input will be included in a Concept Options Report and will assist in selecting a preferred option. Community feedback will be sought on the Concept Options Report when completed later this year.

The process to identify a preferred option is shown overleaf.



Preliminary options

Three options have been shortlisted and are described below:

Option A

A new north/south bridge would be built in place of the existing New Street level crossing. The bridge would span from just south of Barber Street to the Oxley Highway roundabout, which would be raised. Vehicle access to New Street properties would be limited.

Option B

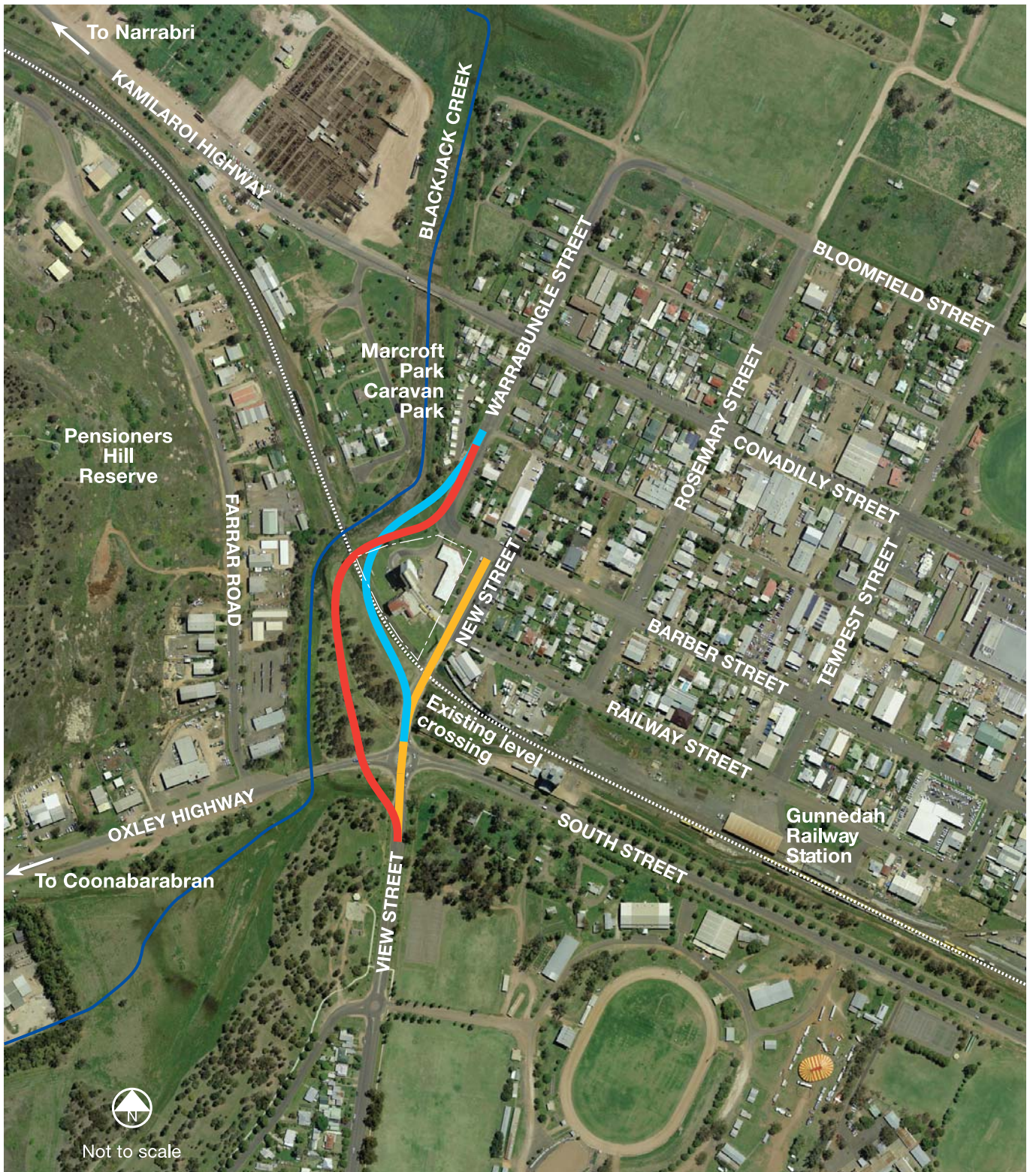
A new bridge would be built to the west of the Maize Mill to connect the Oxley Highway roundabout with Warrabungle Street, north of the Barber Street intersection. The bridge would start at the Oxley Highway roundabout and run close to the railway on its south side.

Option C

A new bridge would be built to the west of the Maize Mill to connect the Oxley Highway with Warrabungle Street, north of the Barber Street intersection. The bridge would start on View Street and make a wider arc to the west of the Mill.

RMS is committed to providing safe and accessible travel for all road users. Regardless of the option selected, the detailed design phase will consider pedestrians and cyclists.

The bridge will be designed to meet Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd (ARTC) guidelines, and comply with relevant environmental and planning legislation.



Preliminary options

- Option A
- Option B
- Option C
- Railway line
- Blackjack Creek
- Gunnedah Maize Mill property boundary

Ongoing community involvement

RMS values your input to help identify local constraints and issues and discuss the preliminary options.

The project team will be available at two community drop-in sessions to answer your questions and receive your input.

When: **Wednesday 22 May 2013**

Session 1: 11am until 2pm

Session 2: 4pm until 7pm

Where: **Gunnedah Town Hall**

Conadilly Street

Gunnedah NSW 2380

Project information will also be on display at the following locations:

Gunnedah Shire Council

63 Elgin Street

Gunnedah Shire Library

291 Conadilly Street

Gunnedah Motor Registry

387 Conadilly Street

www.rms.nsw.gov.au

One-on-one meetings have been offered to property owners within the study area.

Next steps

All the stakeholder and community input gathered will be collated and included in the Concept Options Report.

Copies of the report will be available online and displayed at the same locations listed opposite. Community feedback on the report will be welcomed.

For more information or to comment, please contact the project team at:

Phone: 1800 029 585 (toll free)

Email: secondroadoverrailbridge@kbr.com

Web: www.rms.nsw.gov.au

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Reply Paid 633
Brisbane QLD 4001



Gunnedah Second Road Over Rail Bridge Study Area

DECEMBER 2012

The NSW Government has allocated \$16 million for a second road over rail bridge in Gunnedah that will provide a Higher Mass Limit (HML) route for heavy vehicles through Gunnedah.

The Oxley Highway, in this location, is a State road and connects Tamworth with Coonabarabran via Gunnedah.

With major coal development occurring in the Gunnedah basin, the length of coal trains has been increasing, causing extended delays at nearby level crossings in Gunnedah. There is the need to improve local and through traffic efficiency.

Initial investigations for the project will include:

- Meeting with adjacent landowners, business owners and key stakeholders.
- Mapping environmental constraints.
- Investigating technical and engineering issues.
- Developing concept options.

Current status of study

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has engaged KBR to develop concept options for the second rail overbridge.

The engagement will involve:

- Community consultation.
- Geotechnical investigations.
- Environmental investigations.
- Urban design.
- Heritage investigations.
- Flood impact investigations.

- Traffic studies and modelling.
- Noise studies and modelling.
- Preparing strategic concept designs.
- Identifying and assessing concept options.
- Determining a preferred option.

Following completion of the concept stage the project will proceed to detailed design and construction.

Study area

Investigations will focus within the proposed study area and will take into account wider impacts indicated on the plan opposite.

The aim of the initial investigation is to determine a preferred location for a second road over rail bridge within the study area in Gunnedah. The preferred concept option will meet the following objectives:

- Provide a HML route for heavy vehicles through Gunnedah.
- Improve local and through traffic efficiency.

More information

For more information or if you would like to be kept up to date with the projects progress, please contact the project team by –

- Calling 1800 029 585
- Emailing secondroadoverrailbridge@kbr.com
- Or visiting www.rms.nsw.gov.au

