



Oxley Highway at Gingers Creek, west of Wauchope

Oxley Highway

Community update - November 2016

The Oxley Highway stretches 514 kilometres, starting on the mid north coast of NSW at Port Macquarie and extending west to connect with the inland centres of Tamworth, Gunnedah, Coonabarabran, Gilgandra and Warren. The NSW Government is funding the delivery of vital road improvements along the Oxley Highway. This community update provides information on current activities along the highway between Port Macquarie and the Mitchell Highway at Nevertire.

Improving the Oxley Highway

Roads and Maritime Services is continuing to improve safety and reduce travel times along the Oxley Highway. This important work stems from the Oxley Highway Route Safety Review and the Oxley Highway Corridor Strategy.

The Route Safety Review report was carried out by the NSW Centre for Road Safety and Roads and Maritime, examining the Oxley Highway from the Pacific Highway west of Port Macquarie to the Mitchell Highway at Nevertire.

The NSW Government is providing \$10 million to develop and implement some of the recommendations from the safety review, with a focus on improvements to intersections and bridge approach barriers.

The corridor strategy has been developed by a team from Transport NSW and Roads and Maritime. The strategy sets out the NSW Government's 20-year plan to manage and guide the development of the road corridor to improve safety, traffic efficiency and sustainability.

The strategy will be delivered in line with the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan, Regional Transport Plans and other relevant national and State planning frameworks.

During the 2015 election, the State Government committed \$50 million to a program to improve safety and travel times on the Oxley Highway over the next four years. This funding is being invested in developing and delivering projects in areas identified in the corridor strategy.

Speed zone changes

Speed zone changes at three locations between Wauchope and Long Flat have been implemented to improve safety for all road users.

The need for these speed zone changes, which have been made in accordance with the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines and in consultation with local council, were identified in the Oxley Highway Route Safety Review.

The changes include:

- Reducing the speed limit from 60km/h to 50km/h on a 2.5km section of the highway, west of Beechwood Road to the Wauchope cemetery
- Reducing the speed limit from 100km/h to 80km/h on a 3km section of the highway, west of Bagnoo Road to Long Flat village
- Reducing the speed limit from 60km/h to 50km/h through Long Flat village.

Additional speed zone changes are planned for other sections of the Oxley Highway.

Oxley Highway corridor strategy

Transport for NSW and Roads and Maritime are progressively preparing network and corridor strategies to cover every State road in regional NSW as a response to the challenge of how to best manage transport infrastructure to

maximise benefits for our customers. Network and corridor strategies provide the following benefits for the State road network in regional NSW:

- A plan for network/corridor improvement with consideration to all modes of transport
- Transparency to the community, councils and other government agencies with regard to planning and investment decisions
- Consistency in planning, management and operation of roads
- Integration of road safety, traffic and asset maintenance projects.

The Oxley Highway draft corridor strategy has been prepared by multidisciplinary project teams in consultation with key stakeholders, including local councils and government agencies.

The draft strategy was prepared to ensure that the Oxley Highway can support the transport needs of the region over the next 20 years, improving road safety, travel reliability and freight access.

The strategy detailed a series of measures and improvements in travel for our road customers including:

- Investigating opportunities to improve safety and enable access for Higher Productivity Vehicles
- Improving flood immunity



Finished work at Bective Lane, west of Tamworth

- Improving road alignment and overtaking opportunities
- Investigating improvements for cyclist connectivity and better pedestrian facilities.

Following community feedback, changes to the final draft strategy have been completed and a community consultation report is being prepared for release.

Ongoing maintenance work

Roads and Maritime continues to maintain the Oxley Highway by carrying out improvements to slope stability on the mountain between Walcha and Wauchope, as well as improving the road pavement at various locations along the corridor. This work forms part of the ongoing State road maintenance.

Completed projects

Some of the work finished since the beginning of the year includes:

- Widening the approach lanes on the Oxley Highway at the Port Macquarie interchange
- Improving bridge barrier treatments at 10 locations between Wauchope and Walcha
- Improving linemarking at Kindee Road east of Ellenborough
- Improving slope stability at Ralfes Creek, Ellenborough
- Improving linemarking and warning signs in Walcha Council

- Providing new guardrail at various culverts west of Gunnedah.

Widening the road and improving intersections at:

- Apsley Falls Road, about 18km east of Walcha
- Brackendale Road, just east of Walcha
- Surveyors Creek eastern approach, west of Walcha
- Narrow Cutting, about 8km east of Bendemeer
- Bowlers Lane, about 10km west of Tamworth
- Bective Settlement Road, about 14km west of Tamworth
- Appleby Lane, about 22km west of Tamworth
- Bective Lane, about 23km west of Tamworth
- Standrings, about 7km west of Somerton
- Redbank Road, about 13km east of Gunnedah
- Wilkinson Road, about 5km east of Gunnedah.

Current projects being built

Work is underway at the following locations:

- Improving the pavement at various sections along the highway
- Providing new slip lanes and traffic signals at Wrights Road roundabout, Port Macquarie
- Improving bridge barrier treatments at Carroll Creek, Mooki River overflow and Mooki River, west of Carroll
- Improving slope stability, including vegetation clearing, 66km west of Wauchope, Mt Seaview Road.



Upcoming work at Howe Street, Carroll

Pull over areas

Five pull over areas on the mountain, west of Wauchope, were sealed in June. Emergency phones will be installed soon.

Upcoming work

Work is continuing to improve intersections and bridge barriers along the highway. The work at these locations includes improving right turn movements across opposing traffic, increasing warning signs for the upcoming intersections and improving sight distances at the intersection. Work will start over the next few months on the following projects:

- Improving drainage near Comboyne Road turn-off, Gannons Creek
- Extending a westbound overtaking lane near Rushes Creek Road (road to Keepit Dam), west of Somerton
- Improving the intersection at Howe Street, Carroll
- Improving the entry at Mullaley rest area
- Widening the lane and improving intersections at Mullaley Boggabri Road (Grain Valley Road)
- Improving the intersection and lane widening at Mullaley Coolah Road (Black Stump Way).

Projects in development

A number of projects are being developed along the length of the highway, including:

- New overtaking lane and improvements to the alignment at Spencers Cutting
- Intersection improvements between Comboyne Road to Mount Seaview Road at the following locations:
 - Comboyne Road
 - Bagnoo Road
 - Main Street, Ellenborough
 - Wallis Road, Ellenborough
 - Forbes River Road
 - Mount Seaview Road

- Improving the alignment of the Oxley Highway near Rosewood Road, west of Wauchope
- Building a new drainage culvert, 12.5km west of Walcha at Bergen Op Zoom Creek
- Improving signposting at intersection of Bridge Street / Stewart Avenue, Tamworth
- Raising a central median on Bridge Street, between Phillip Street to Mahoney Avenue in Tamworth
- Improving the intersection of Goddard Lane with the Oxley Highway, west of Tamworth
- Providing an eastbound overtaking lane near Rushes Creek Road (road to Keepit Dam), west of Somerton
- Improving flood immunity at Hoss Causeway, east of Carroll
- Improving flood immunity at Tommy Swamp causeway, 6.5km west of Carroll
- Improving the intersection at Boundary Road, Gunnedah.

Landowners and the community will continue to be consulted during the development of these projects. More information will be available on these projects as they progress.

For more information

For more information about the Oxley Highway please contact the project team by:

☎ 02 6640 1300

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💻 More information is also available at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/oxley

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Improvements on the Oxley Highway

