

### Princes Highway upgrade between Jervis Bay Road and Sussex Inlet Road – August 2021 update

An upgrade of the Princes Highway between Jervis Bay Road and Sussex Inlet Road is a short term priority in Transport for NSW's 20 year plan for the Princes Highway.

A preferred strategic corridor for the upgrade between Jervis Bay Road and Sussex Inlet Road was identified and put on display for community feedback in November 2020. The corridor was identified because it would:

- improve safety, performance and accessibility at key intersections and with local roads
- improve safety and traffic efficiency by including two lanes in both directions and improving the curve and road safety standards of the corridor
- connect with the proposed design for the Jervis Bay Road intersection upgrade.

The corridor was identified following a strategic investigation and design process that assessed four shortlisted options against agreed criteria and engaged key community stakeholders, government agencies and Council.

The Federal Government committed \$400 million toward the project in May 2021.

Following a review of community feedback and ongoing environmental studies, a preferred option will be displayed later this year.

### What's happening now?

Work is taking place to further refine the design to identify a preferred option and we are investigating opportunities for staged delivery of the upgrade. The preferred option will provide more details on the upgrade of the Princes Highway including its changes in width and direction, the access arrangements and the intersection types. More information will be available in the coming months and the community will be kept informed.

A key aim of the Princes Highway upgrade is to support the sustainable growth of the local economy, employment opportunities and population. As part of the environmental assessment, a study will be carried out by Transport and technical specialists to understand the social and economic impacts and benefits of the proposal. We will be contacting some businesses in the project area to understand how the highway upgrade would change business operations during construction and when open to traffic.

The information gathered as part of the social and economic impact assessment will be used to help unlock a wide range of social and economic benefits for communities and customers.

## What investigation work has taken place?

Geotechnical investigations, utility and ground surveys, environmental and heritage investigations are being carried out to get a better understanding of the environmental conditions along the project corridor. The information gathered during this work will help inform the concept design and environmental assessment of the upgrade.

## How was the preferred strategic corridor identified?

A range of strategic corridor options were considered during the planning phase. This included technical workshops involving local, state and federal government stakeholders who assessed shortlisted options against the agreed criteria before making a recommendation for a preferred strategic corridor option.

## Why is highway upgrade needed?

Planning for the upgrade of sections of the 20 kilometre length of the Princes Highway between Jervis Bay Road and Sussex Inlet Road would deliver a more resilient transport network, improve safety, ease traffic congestion and while keeping people connected to local services and their homes.

The upgrade would address the 126 crashes including 5 fatal crashes and 42 serious injury crashes on this section of highway in the five years from 2014 to 2018.

What are the objectives of the project?

The project would:

- Improve network safety for all transport users
- Improve freight access and efficiency
- Improve traffic efficiency and connectivity
- Increase the use of active and public transport
- Improve transport network resilience
- Support sustainable growth of the economy, employment and population of the region.

## What is the preferred strategic corridor and why was it selected?

The preferred strategic corridor identified for the Jervis Bay Road to Sussex Inlet Road upgrade has the following key features:

- Improved safety and traffic efficiency by planning for an upgraded highway alignment to include two lanes in both directions
- Improved safety, performance and accessibility to key intersections, better connecting communities off the highway
- Improved accessibility in and around Wandandian and Bewong
- Improve efficiency on the highway by bypassing east of Wandandian
- Connection with the proposed design for the Jervis Bay Road intersection upgrade

The diagram below shows the preferred strategic corridor.



More information on the preferred strategic corridor is available on the [project website](#).

## What community consultation has been carried out?

In 2020, Transport worked with community and industry leaders to build a 20 year plan for the Princes Highway. We consulted with stakeholders to understand how they want to move in the future, the existing issues and constraints of the highway and how the transport network can better contribute to the places and economies it serves.

We identified the constraints and issues of the existing highway and the short term priority projects for the highway upgrade, including the Jervis Bay Road to Sussex Inlet Road upgrade.

In late 2020, Transport consulted with community and stakeholders on the preferred strategic option. Consultation methods included stakeholder briefings and meetings with community groups, a Facebook Live session, emails, notifications sent to all townships near the highway, print and digital advertising and door knocking of all properties within the 20 kilometre preferred strategic corridor.

Feedback was accepted via online survey, email, phone or printed feedback forms.

In June 2021, a consultation report was published with more information on the community and stakeholder feedback received over this period. A copy of this report can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

## Will the upgrade include the full duplication of the Princes Highway between Jervis Bay Road and Sussex Inlet Road?

The proposed upgrade and identified strategic corridor includes planning to duplicate the Princes Highway between Jervis Bay Road and Sussex Inlet Road.

The design features and intersection treatments along the stretch of highway will be further investigated and the community will be informed of these plans as the project progresses.

## When will work start?

Timeframes for the project have not been finalised. Preliminary investigations are ongoing and the outcome of this work will be used to further refine the strategic corridor and to help identify a preferred option. We are investigating opportunities for staged delivery of the upgrade.

## How will local access (to and from the Princes Highway) be impacted by the project?

During the concept design phase, we will identify local access points and consider how access could be maintained during the construction and when the proposed upgrade is open to traffic. Some changes to how transport users, residents and businesses currently access the Princes Highway may be required for the highway upgrade and to improve road safety and these changes will be further investigated. More information on local road and property access will be available when the concept design and environmental assessment are displayed. This will follow consultation with property owners.

Transport has also identified potential major intersections along this stretch of the highway, and the treatments/types for each intersection will be determined as the project progresses.

Transport for NSW will continue to work with emergency services providers to ensure the highway responds effectively during emergencies and major events

## What are the environmental impacts of the project?

The project team will carry out an environmental assessment of the proposed project area. The environmental assessment will include a more detailed description of the proposal and design features, impacts and benefits and include studies and investigation about biodiversity, Aboriginal cultural heritage, non-Aboriginal heritage, property and land use, visual impact, traffic and transport, socio-economic benefits and impacts of noise and vibration, flooding and hydrology, and the consideration of cumulative impacts.

The environmental assessment will identify the mitigation measures required to manage these impacts during the design, construction and operational phases of the project.

Nearby properties were informed of the preferred strategic option immediately following the announcement in November 2020.

Any business owner, property or tenant impacted by the project will be directly contacted by the project team and Transport will work closely with these people to support them throughout the project. More information on the property acquisition process can be found at [www.propertyacquisition.nsw.gov.au](http://www.propertyacquisition.nsw.gov.au).

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## COVIDSafe Work Practices

For the safety of the community and workers, project teams on the Jervis Bay Road and Princes Highway upgrade, Jervis Bay Road to Sussex Inlet Road, Milton Ulladulla bypass, Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay upgrade and Moruya bypass have COVID-19 Safe plans in place in line with NSW Public Health Orders. COVID-19 Safe plans consider field investigation work in the project area and travel to and from site. Current investigation work on the Princes Highway includes biodiversity and heritage studies, geotechnical investigations, flood mapping, noise monitoring and travel to and from site.

We are:

- Carrying out investigation work in remote areas and where social distancing can be followed
- Carrying out all engagement activities via phone or online. We are encouraging the community to phone or email the project team and will provide regular communication on our website, email and by mail for work happening near you.
- Wearing a face mask when face to face interactions are required, and maintaining a 1.5 metre distance and not shaking hands

## What's the process from here?

Work is taking place to further identify the preferred option and we are investigating opportunities for staged delivery of the upgrade. The preferred option will include more details on the upgrade of the Princes Highway including its changes in width and direction, the access arrangements and the intersection types. More information will be available in the coming months and the community will be kept informed.

A key aim of the Princes Highway upgrade is to support the sustainable growth of the local economy, employment opportunities and population. As part of the environmental assessment, a study will be carried out by Transport and technical specialists to understand the social and economic impacts and benefits of the proposal. We will be contacting key businesses to understand how the highway upgrade would change business operations during construction and when open to traffic.

The information gathered as part of the social and economic impact assessment will be used to help unlock a wide range of social and economic benefits for communities and customers.

## How will we be kept informed about the project?

You can subscribe to project updates and tell us how you want to be contacted in the future on the project webpage. We will keep the community updated as we progress.

For more information or to speak to a member of the project team please call 1800 570 567 or email [jb2si@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jb2si@transport.nsw.gov.au)