



Transport for NSW

# Safety improvement work on the Mitchell Highway between Bathurst and Orange



Completed safety improvement work west of Bathurst at Oaky Creek Lane on the Mitchell Highway. Work included road widening, drainage improvement, installing safety barriers and rumble strips

The NSW Government is providing \$50 million to improve safety along a 50 kilometre section of the Mitchell Highway between Bathurst and Orange.

## **Saving Lives on Country Roads**

Roads are crucial to everyday life for country people. The fatality rate on country roads is four times that of metropolitan roads. On average, more than 70 per cent of the deaths on country roads are locals.

The NSW Government has developed the Saving Lives on Country Roads program to tackle this shocking statistic. The program is delivering a package of safety improvements for high risk country roads in NSW.

The aim of these safety improvements is to increase the separation of oncoming vehicles, alert drivers when they leave a lane, and provide a more forgiving road environment for when people make mistakes.

In the next five years \$50 million will be spent to improve safety on the Mitchell Highway between Bathurst and Orange. The first stage of these improvements started in April 2019 at Oaky Creek Lane (formerly Garvey's Lane) and was completed in October 2019.

### **Project benefits**

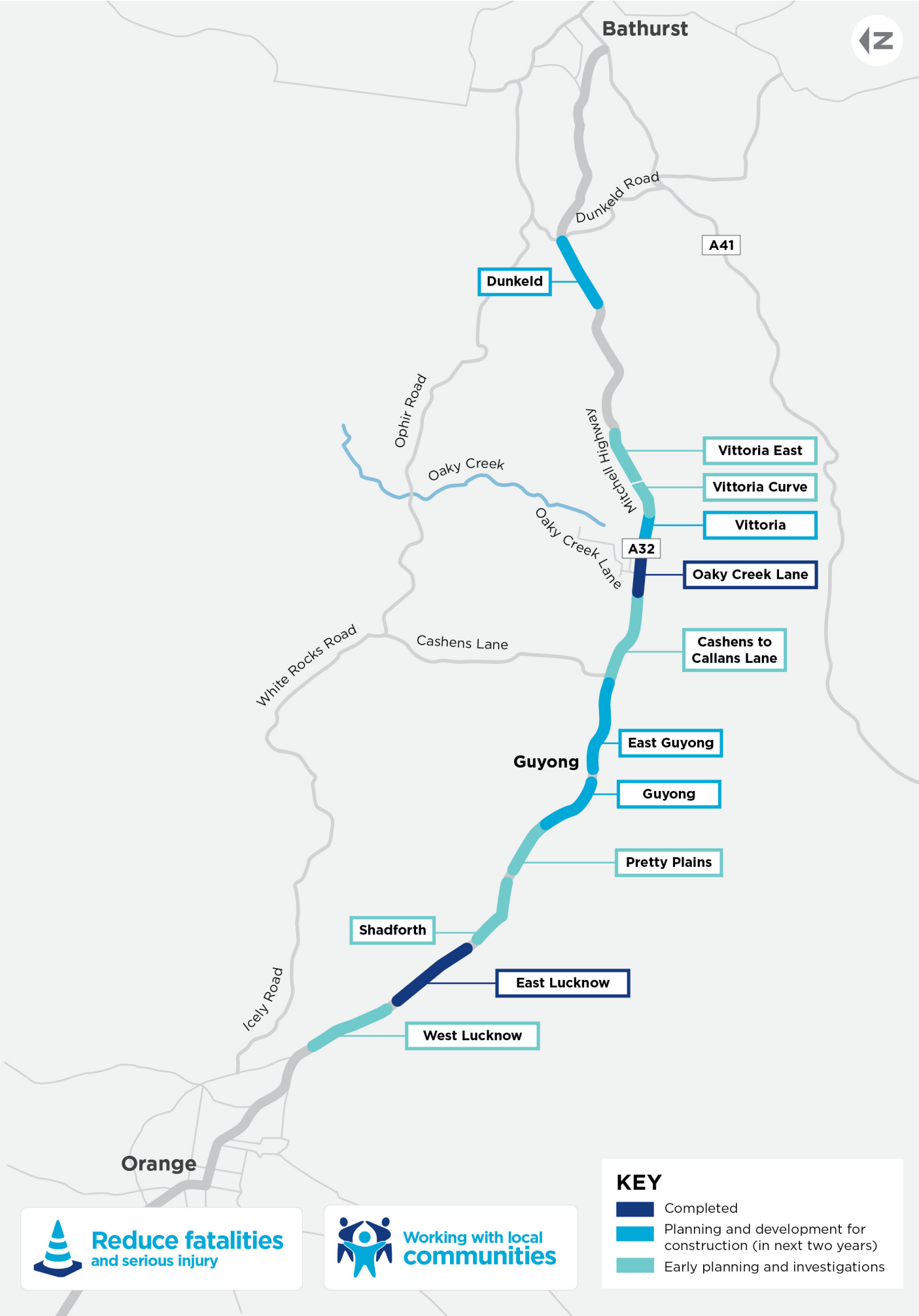
The key benefits of the safety improvement work include:

- Improve safety for road users
- Reduce the occurrence and severity of run off road crashes on this section of the Mitchell Highway
- Reduce the occurrence and severity of head on crashes on this section of the Mitchell Highway.



**Improving  
safety**

# Bathurst to Orange safety upgrade projects



## Bathurst to Orange

The \$50 million package of safety works between Bathurst and Orange includes:

- Rumble strips (also known as Audio Tactile Line Marking) – to alert drivers when their vehicle is leaving the travel lane. Rumble strips are estimated to reduce crashes from vehicles leaving their lane by up to 25 per cent.
- Wide centrelines (WCL) – to increase space between oncoming traffic. WCL are estimated to reduce head-on crashes by 50 per cent.
- Flexible safety barriers – to separate oncoming traffic and protect vehicles from roadside hazards. Flexible barriers can reduce the severity of crashes on country roads by up to 95 per cent.
- Curve improvements – to treat hazardous curves on the road. Curve improvements including road shoulder widening, additional curve alignment signage and electronic vehicle activated signage are cost-effective methods of treating hazardous curves.

## Work to date

Transport for NSW started work in April 2019 on a 1.3 kilometre section of highway 20 kilometres west of Bathurst at Oaky Creek Lane (formerly Garvey's Lane).

The highway has been widened in both directions along with an upgrade to Oaky Creek Lane intersection to provide room to pass safely around motorists turning off the highway.

Further safety improvements included installing centre and side barriers to reduce the risk and severity of head-on and off-road crashes.

Similar widening and barrier installation work was completed in July 2018 to upgrade a 2.2 kilometre section East of Lucknow (funded separately from \$50M package).

## Next stages

For the remainder of the year the work will focus on:

- Installing flexible safety barriers in the median and on the roadside on both sides of the Mitchell Highway at Guyong
- Installing rumble strips on the edge lines and centreline on the Mitchell Highway at Guyong.

### Flexible safety barriers



reduce the severity of high-risk crashes by up to 95%

### Wide centreline



is estimated to reduce head-on crashes by 50% and run-off-road crashes by up to 25%

### Rumble strips



are estimated to reduce the likelihood of vehicles departing their lane by 15% to 25%



Flexible safety barrier installed in the centre median and roadside at East Lucknow on the Mitchell Highway



## Further work on Mitchell Highway – Bathurst to Orange

Detailed planning is currently being carried out on key sections of the Mitchell Highway between Bathurst and Orange.

The NSW Government has committed \$50 million to improve road safety on this vital commuter and heavy vehicle route.

The safety improvements include installing flexible barriers to significantly reduce the severity of head on crashes and run off road crashes, widened centrelines and rumble strips at a number of locations.

Further safety improvements include road widening and drainage improvements between Bathurst and Orange.



Mitchell Highway flexible safety barrier treatment at Oak Creek Lane



Mitchell Highway flexible safety barrier treatment at East Lucknow



Intersection upgrade at Oak Creek Lane

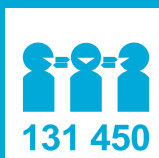
### Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Mitchell Highway safety upgrade work, please contact our project team:

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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 167 499.



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