



Transport for NSW

Consultation feedback on the Tumut intersection upgrade

Community update | December 2021



Snowy Mountains Highway and Gocup Road intersection

Transport for NSW welcomed feedback on the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) from transport customers, key stakeholders and the broader community over a three-week consultation period.

Overview

In September 2021, consultation on the REF began with the local community. Transport customers in Tumut were asked for their thoughts and concerns around the proposed new roundabout at the Snowy Mountains Highway and Gocup Road intersection.

The Tumut intersection upgrade project is aiming to improve safety and traffic efficiency at that location. A team of specialist road designers and project developers have been working to ensure the best outcome for safety and the travelling public at this intersection.

A total of eight responses were received over the three-week feedback period. The community provided their comments via project email and phone.

The feedback received was highly supportive of improving safety at the busy intersection. Some comments suggested alternative options, including a heavy vehicle bypass, traffic lights and moving the intersection which would involve building a new

intersection down the road. There were also some questions raised about how the new roundabout design would improve sight distance, with mention of tree removal and the gradient of the approach lanes.

Transport has fully considered all submissions and has prepared a community consultation report in response to the feedback. This report can be found on the project website, at nswroads.work/tiu.



Snowy Mountains Highway and Gocup Road intersection

What you asked us

Why a roundabout?

Many different options were investigated, but a roundabout provides the highest safety performance and best addresses the community's specific safety concerns.

Roundabouts help make intersections safer by:

- reducing vehicle speeds, making it easier to choose a safe gap in traffic
- minimising the impact angles of approach, leading to lower severity crashes
- having significantly fewer conflict points
- directing motorists in one direction
- reducing the risk of being seriously injured by up to 85 per cent.

Studies have shown roundabouts are safer than traffic lights, improve traffic flow and are more efficient for heavy vehicles.

Why not a heavy vehicle bypass or move the intersection?

We understand some parts of the community are still keen to progress a solution that involves moving the intersection to bypass the current location and close Gocup Road.

This option was previously considered by the Centre for Road Safety during their review in May 2020 to improve safety at this location, however, moving the intersection and closing the existing Gocup Road connection would create new safety issues and collision points at each of the new intersection locations.

An alternate intersection location would achieve a reduced safety outcome compared to the proposed roundabout and is also expected to take longer to build with property acquisition, complex environmental requirements, and possible changes to the highway.

What are you doing to improve sight distance at the intersection?

Transport is aware of gradients and sight distance issues at the intersection. As part of the detailed design for the new roundabout, the elevation level and alignment on the approach legs to the roundabout have been significantly improved. This has greatly improved sight distance and overall safety at the intersection. For further information, please refer to the REF, on the project website.

Vegetation will be removed along Gocup Road and the Snowy Mountains Highway as well as some trees at the intersection near the Butter Factory to further improve sight visibility.

What about the trucks?

Heavy vehicles have been a key consideration during the development of this project due to the high degree of freight using the intersection daily, and its key links to local timber and agricultural industries. The turning paths for larger vehicles (including B-doubles and Type 1 Road Trains) have been included in the design of the new roundabout.

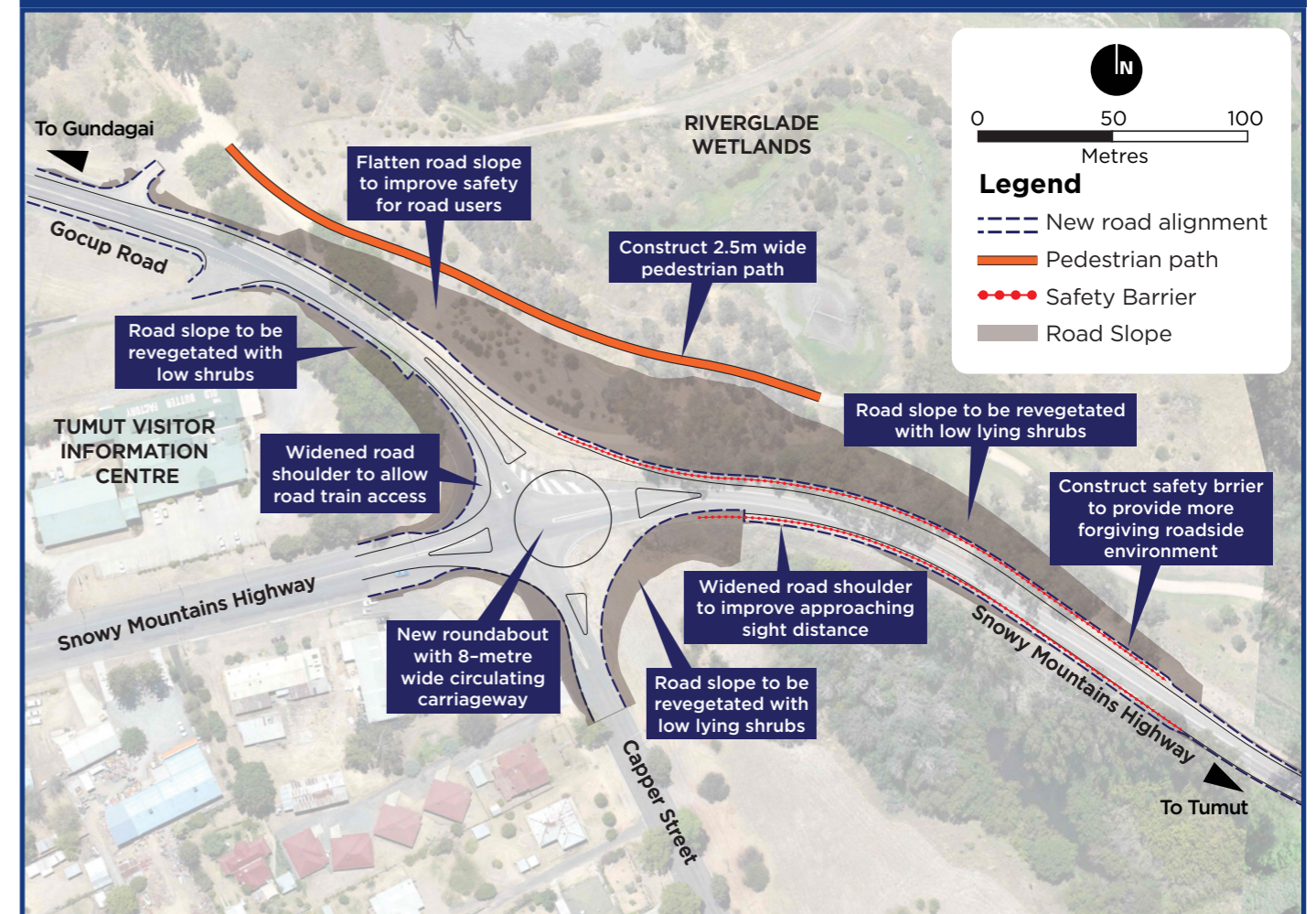
These vehicles will be able to traverse the roundabout comfortably. A wider road surface has also been provided for larger vehicles turning left into Gocup Road. The solid black line indicated in the detailed design is line marking, not kerbing (and is traversable on the North west corner).

The size of the new roundabout is 50 metres in diameter, that is twice the size of the existing road.

The roundabout will accommodate:

- 36.5-metre Type 1 Road Trains (this includes all PBS 3A vehicles)
- 26-metre B-Double
- 19-metre Semi-Trailers
- 30-metre Oversize and Overmass heavy vehicles.

Tumut intersection upgrade



What we heard on social media

“If they build it properly trucks – all types – will have no problem negotiating the roundabout”

Close Gocup Road and move the intersection, heavy vehicle bypass and approach lanes / sight distance.

“Rerouting Gocup Road to join the Snowy Mountains Highway at Dalhunny St – there is less fog and could be better angles for trucks.”

Heavy vehicle bypass, sight distance, traffic lights.

Very supportive... the cost is justified.

“Heavy vehicle bypass, sight distance and traffic lights.”

“Alignment of approach lanes from north to south to improve sight distance.”

A roundabout is dangerous... the only solution is traffic lights.

A roundabout would be quicker. Just think of hold up at the lights during peak times.

“Remove more trees.”

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback during the consultation period.

We appreciate the feedback received on the proposal to build a new roundabout. After considering the submissions received over the three-week period and with safety being the key driver for this project, Transport is confident that out of all options considered, a roundabout at the current location is preferred.

Next steps

The project team is finalising plans to start work in early 2022. We understand, coming into the busy Christmas holiday period at this location, there is an increased risk to the safety of all road-users and we ask that people take extra care at this time.

We anticipate construction to start from early 2022 and continue for about 12 months. We will keep the community updated as the project progresses.

Scan here to find out more.



Project stages



*Weather and COVID-19 permitting

We're here for you

We will continue to liaise with the community and stakeholders throughout the project. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our project team:

- 0407 064 157
- SouthProjects@transport.nsw.gov.au
- nswroads.work/tiu
- Tumut intersection upgrade
- PO Box 484
- Wagga Wagga NSW 2650



131 450

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