



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Transport for NSW

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

Little Hartley to Lithgow (West Section)
Review of Environmental Factors | Community Update



Artist's representation of Great Western Highway, east of Baaners Lane, looking south-east (indicative only, final layout to be determined through detailed design)

Together, the Australian and NSW Governments have committed more than \$2.5 billion towards the East and West sections of the Great Western Highway Upgrade, between Katoomba and Blackheath, and between Little Hartley and Lithgow, respectively. The Great Western Highway Upgrade will reduce congestion, deliver safer, more efficient and reliable journeys for those travelling in, around and through the Blue Mountains, and better connect communities in the Central West.

Transport for NSW (Transport) is proposing to upgrade around 14 kilometres of the Great Western Highway between Little Hartley and Lithgow to a four lane divided highway.

The proposed upgrade would use modern design standards to improve safety by separating carriageways, improving gradients and straightening curves as much as possible.

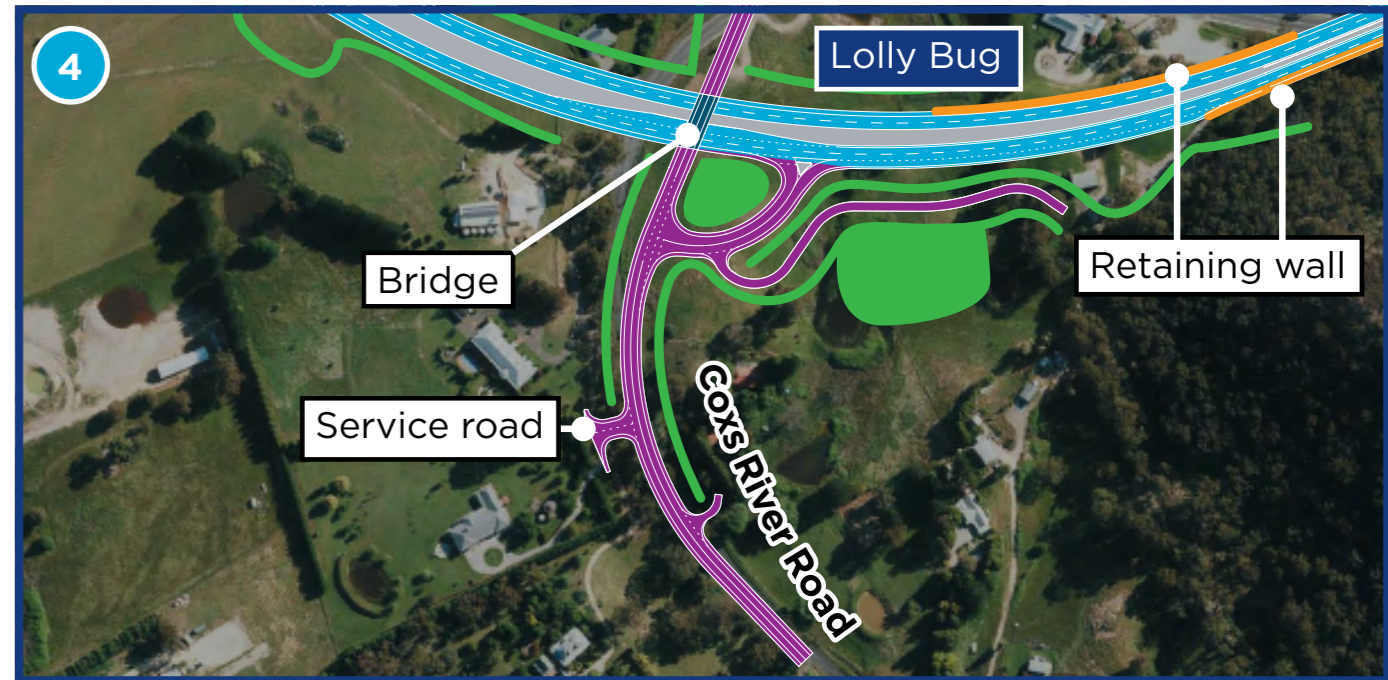
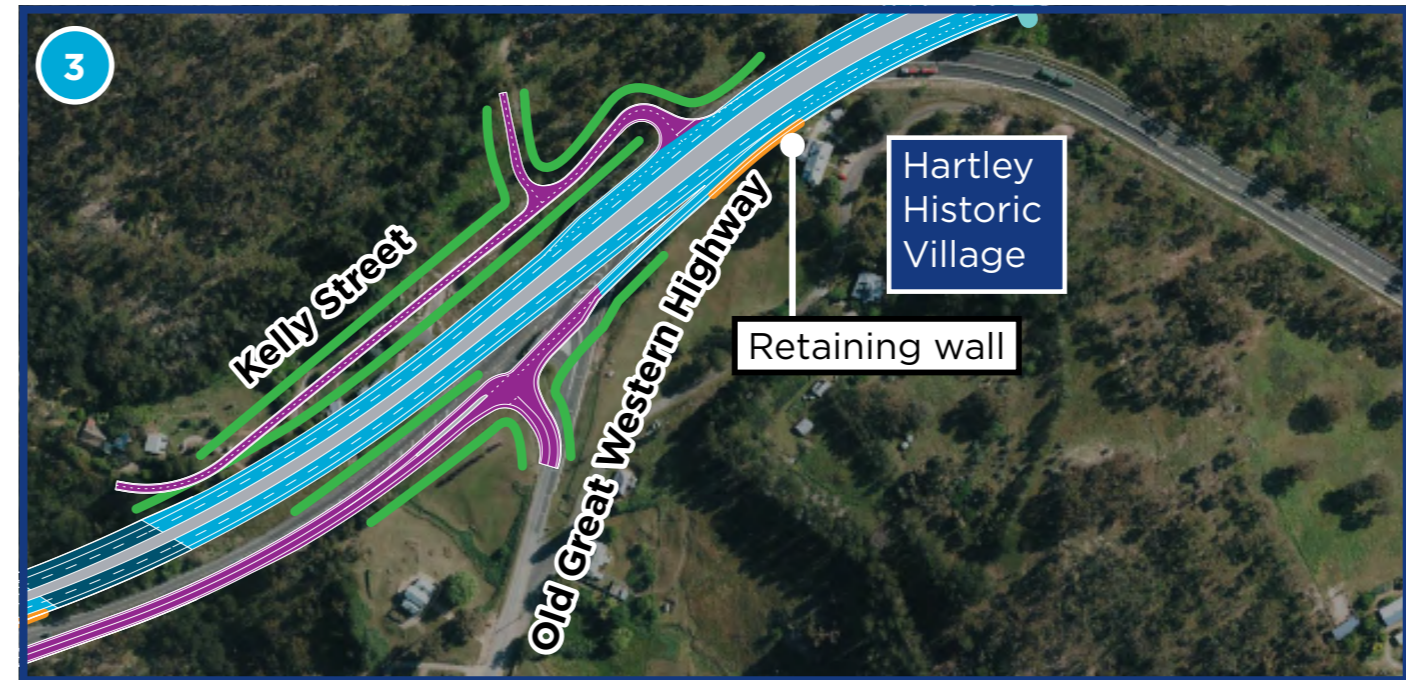
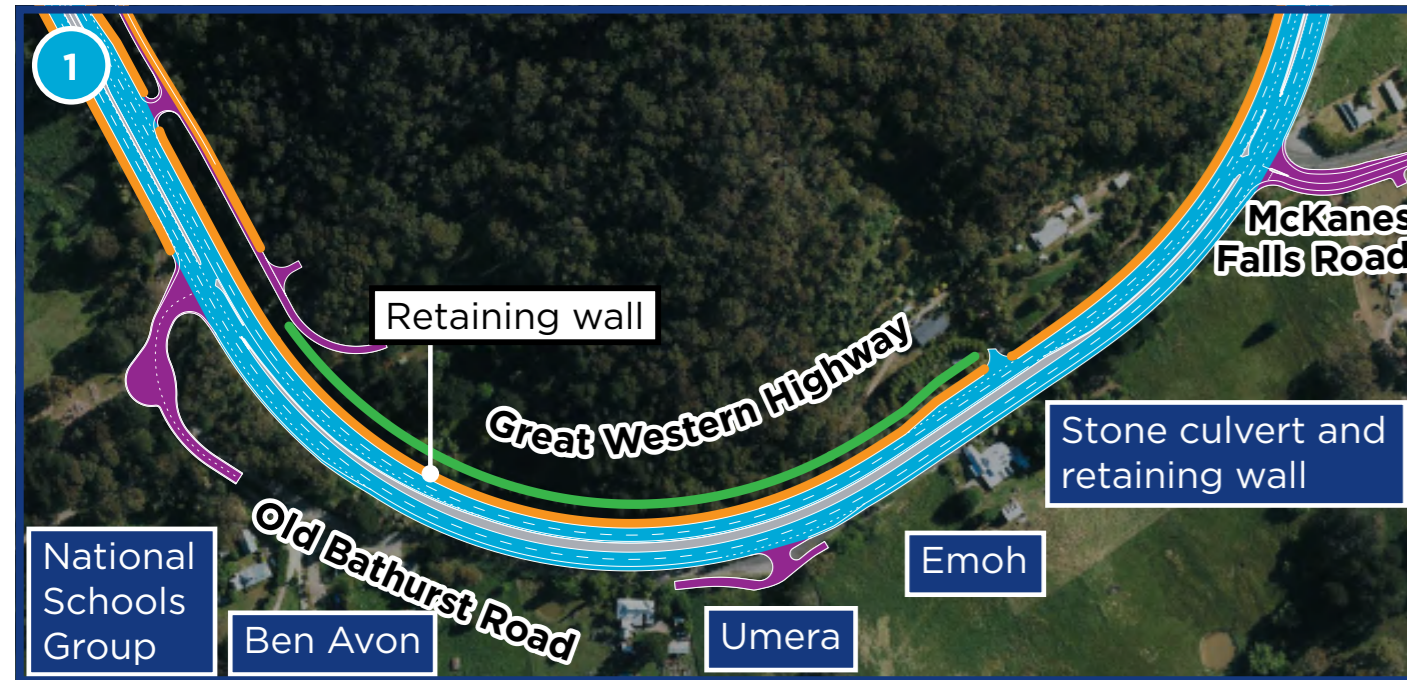
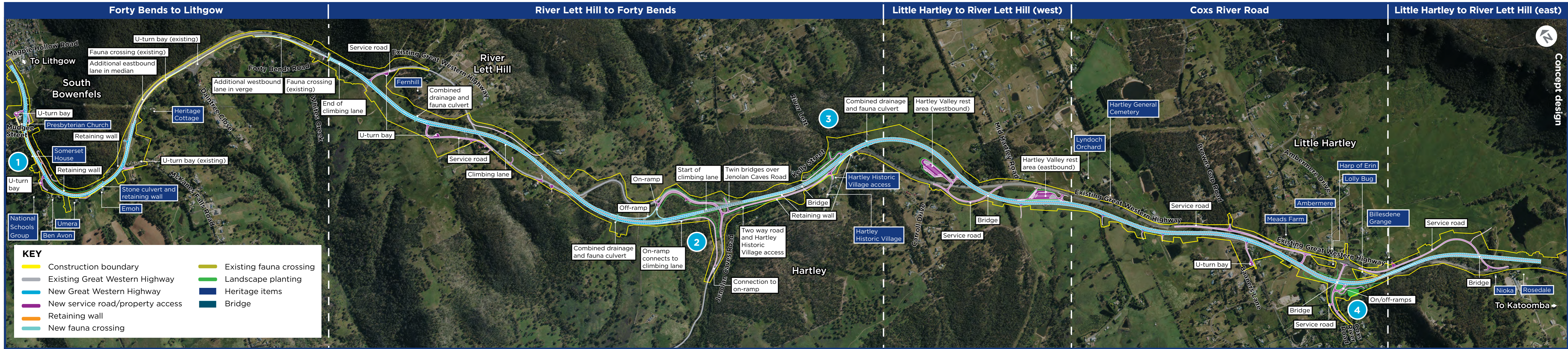
Transport is now seeking your feedback on the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and concept design for the proposed Little Hartley to Lithgow upgrade.

Have
your say

Your input is important in helping Transport to design the best upgrade we can between Little Hartley and Lithgow. We invite you to review the proposed design, understand the environmental impacts and have your say.

Feedback on the Little Hartley to Lithgow REF and concept design is invited from **Monday 22 November** to **Tuesday 21 December 2021**. Visit our virtual consultation room at nswroads.work/gwhwestconsult or talk to staff at one of our consultation sessions to find out more.

November 2021



Overview

The Great Western Highway between Little Hartley and Lithgow is mostly a two-way undivided carriageway with one lane in each direction. The highway services freight, tourist and general traffic with volumes of about 11,000 vehicles per day near Lithgow and traffic growth is expected to continue.

Without the Little Hartley to Lithgow upgrade, the performance of the Great Western Highway is expected to deteriorate and approach operational capacity within the next fifteen years. Motorists would face congestion along the highway and delays at intersections, with few opportunities to overtake slower vehicles.

Providing a four lane divided carriageway between Little Hartley and Lithgow would increase the capacity of the highway, reducing congestion and improving intersection performance. This would allow traffic to flow smoothly, reducing travel time for motorists.

The proposed upgrade follows the general alignment of the existing Great Western Highway as much as possible, however it does diverge in places to ease tightly curved sections. It also provides new junctions and retains sections of the existing highway as service roads to property accesses.

The speed limit would be 100 km/hr from Little Hartley to Forty Bends, 90 km/hr from Forty Bends to McKanes Falls Road, and 80 km/hr from McKanes Falls Road to Lithgow.

Lanes would be 3.5 metres wide, with shoulders of about 2.5 metres and a maximum grade of 6.75 per cent on River Lett Hill. The central median would be from three metres to 11 metres wide depending on the location, and would be either paved or landscaped.

Transport respects the unique natural environment and cultural heritage of the upgrade corridor. We have adopted an integrated design approach to ensure the design responds to the existing landscape, vegetation and heritage features.

As a result, urban design has directly influenced key engineering aspects of the road design and bridges to seek the best possible outcomes.

We welcome community feedback on further improvements to integrate the design into its surrounding context and minimise impacts on heritage and cultural values.

Project benefits



Key features

- Upgrade of around 14 kilometres of the Great Western Highway between Little Hartley and Lithgow to a safer four lane divided highway
- Provision of service roads for local traffic
- Safer, controlled access onto the highway
- Provision of two rest areas
- New bridges to allow safer, separated intersections for local traffic
- Upgrade of the existing bridge over River Lett
- Provision of a westbound climbing (third) lane on River Lett Hill

The upgrade has been designed in four sections:

- Little Hartley to River Lett Hill (east)
- Coxs River Road
- River Lett Hill (west) to Forty Bends
- Forty Bends to Lithgow

Subject to planning approval, construction would commence at Coxs River Road in late 2022.

Recent traffic modelling indicates that the complete Great Western Highway Upgrade Program, including the proposed tunnel between Blackheath and Little Hartley, could halve the projected 2036 peak travel time between Katoomba and Lithgow on busy weekends from one hour to thirty minutes.

Have your say on the upgrade

You are invited to have your say on the Little Hartley to Lithgow REF and concept design.

An REF is undertaken to assess the potential impacts of a proposed development or activity on the environment, to ensure compliance with the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and any other relevant state and national laws.

It includes investigations into all environmental impacts, and includes ways the project proposes to identify, mitigate and manage those impacts.

We have developed fact sheets that highlight how the Little Hartley to Lithgow REF has considered and addressed key themes from previous consultation, including:

- Concept design key features
- Landscape character and visual impacts
- Cultural heritage
- Biodiversity
- Property

The fact sheets will give you an overview, however, we encourage you to read the full REF document to gain a complete understanding of all impacts, before you make a submission on any issue.

The concept design has been developed in response to feedback received during community consultation between 2008 and 2013 and more recently in 2019, with additional refinement undertaken as a result of consultation and design workshops over the course of 2020/21.

Transport welcomes community feedback on how the design can be further developed and enhanced to deliver the best upgrade possible between Little Hartley and Lithgow.

To view the full REF, the concept design, fact sheets, and answers to frequently asked questions please go to nswroads.work/gwhwestconsult

To have copies of documents posted to you, please contact the project team at gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au or **1800 953 777**.



Artist's representation of Old Bathurst Road, Hartley Historic Village, adjacent to the Hartley Courthouse building, looking north-east (indicative only, final layout to be determined through detailed design)

What is an REF?

Transport has legal obligations to assess and mitigate impacts that may result from a proposed activity. An REF details these legal obligations, and the environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures of a project.

What is a concept design?

The concept design is developed in sufficient detail to allow an assessment of likely environmental, social and economic impacts so stakeholders can provide feedback. It may change based on feedback received.

View the REF and concept design

You can view the Little Hartley to Lithgow REF and concept design at:

- our virtual consultation room at nswroads.work/gwhwestconsult
- Lithgow City Council Administration Centre
- Lithgow Library Learning Centre

Have your say

We are planning to hold a mixture of online and COVIDSafe face-to-face consultation sessions.

We recommend that you view the REF and concept design before you speak with the team or make a submission.

Speak to the project team

General online sessions

Tuesday 30 November 6.30pm–8.00pm

Saturday 11 December 12.30pm–2.00pm

Targeted online sessions

Coxs River Road/Baaners Lane

Thursday 2 December 6.30pm–8.00pm

Jenolan Caves Road/River Lett Hill

Thursday 9 December 6.30pm–8.00pm

Consultation is open from 22 November to 21 December 2021. All formal submissions must be received or postmarked by midnight, 21 December.

Face-to-face sessions

Saturday 4 December 1.00pm–3.15pm*

Lithgow Civic Ballroom – Tony Luchetti Showgrounds, George Coates Avenue, Lithgow

Tuesday 7 December 5.30pm–7.45pm*

Hartley Community Hall, Corner Great Western Highway and Mid Hartley Road, Hartley

*Book a 45 minute time slot

Register for a consultation session at nswroads.work/gwhwestconsult

Bookings are essential for face-to-face sessions, which will be held pending COVID restrictions or the occurrence of local cases at the time of the events. QR code sign in and proof of double vaccination status will be required.

Contact us on 1800 953 777 or gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au to book a personal phone consultation if you prefer.

How to make a formal submission

We welcome all feedback on the Little Hartley to Lithgow REF and concept design.

To have your input formally considered, and receive a response in the consultation report, use our online submission form at nswroads.work/gwhwestconsult, email us at gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au, or mail a printed submission to the address below.

Contact us

Sign up for our eNewsletter online at nswroads.work/gwhd and you'll never miss a project update.



nswroads.work/gwhd



gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au



1800 953 777



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