

Frequently asked questions

Why are you duplicating the Barton Highway?

The Barton Highway is being upgraded to improve road safety. The upgrade will improve journey reliability, ease congestion, improve driver safety and boost freight productivity.

The vision for the Barton Highway between the ACT border and the Hume Highway over the next 20 years is to:

- provide safe and reliable commuter access to Canberra
- provide an alternative access route to Canberra
- support key freight movements between western and southern NSW and the ACT driving economic growth
- cater for the mix of through, local and tourist traffic along the corridor
- improve safety and pedestrian and cyclist access for Murrumbateman village
- create vibrant regional spaces as part of Future Transport 2056's 40-year vision for the future of transport.

What are the benefits of this project?

Duplicating the highway will ensure safer and more reliable journeys for almost 13,000 road users who use the Barton Highway daily.

Benefits for the community and road users include safer travel, reduced travel times with improved transport efficiency, more consistent and reliable travel, and safer conditions for road users and local communities.

When did work start on the first stage of duplication?

Minor work started on the first stage of duplication in late 2020.

Why has it taken so long?

A huge amount of work has been carried out on the first stage of duplication since minor work started in late 2020, including completing 254,000 cubic metres of earthwork, rolling out 60,000 tonnes of road surface and installing two kilometres of drainage work. Due to La Nina conditions, the project team has also battled over 200 wet weather days.

How much has this upgrade cost?

The Australian and NSW governments have together committed \$200 million towards the upgrade of the Barton Highway, with \$150 million provided by the Australian Government and \$50 million by the NSW Government.

What is a traffic switch?

Changed traffic conditions are required for about two months to move all northbound Barton Highway traffic off the existing lanes and on to the newly constructed highway.

This traffic switch will enable the project team to prepare the existing lanes from two-way traffic to southbound-only.

Work will include fresh bitumen seal and line marking and signage. When complete, all four lanes will be open, signalling the completion of the first stage of duplication.

Why does work need to be carried out on the old road?

Work is required on the old road to convert the existing lanes from two-way traffic to southbound-only. This will require new road surface, line marking, signs and reflectors. Turning the existing highway into southbound lanes and building new northbound lanes is a fast and cost-effective way to deliver a duplicated carriageway.

When will the first stage of work be completed?

The highway is expected to be fully open to four lanes of traffic in late 2023/early 2024, weather permitting.

When will work start on Stage 2?

Planning for the second stage of duplication is well under way with concept designs and environmental assessment expected to be ready for sharing with the community next year.

What length of highway will be duplicated as part of Stage 2?

Stage 2 of the Barton Highway Corridor Upgrade aims to duplicate the existing highway from Kaveney's Road in the South towards Murrumbateman. The length of highway duplicated as part of Stage 2 will be determined during development of the concept design. More information will be shared with the community when the concept design is released.

Will the community be asked to give feedback on Stage 2?

Yes. The concept design and review of environmental factors are expected to be shared with the community in 2024 for community feedback. These comments will be fed into the project planning phase to ensure concerns and opportunities are adequately addressed.

Why isn't the section at the NSW-ACT border duplicated?

While work is almost complete on the first stage of duplication, the small section of highway at the NSW-ACT border (the southern permanent tie-in) is being focussed on separately to address feedback from the community.

We are committed to delivering the best possible result for all members of the community so this stage of work will take a little bit longer while this section is being finalised.

We will keep the community informed as work progresses.

When will the southern permanent tie-in work start?

While the duplication from Hall to south of Kaveney's Road intersection is almost complete, the section of highway at the NSW-ACT border has been reviewed to address feedback from the community.

A temporary tie-in has been built while the permanent solution is progressed. We expect the permanent solution will be built around the same time as the second stage of duplication.

We now have a preferred option for the permanent tie-in design and have shared it with the community as part of the Spring 2023 community update.

We are working as quickly as possible to deliver the best possible result for all members of the community and will keep stakeholders updated as soon as more information is available.

Why did work start at the ACT end of the highway?

The southern end of the Barton Highway was identified as the priority for duplication as it has higher traffic volumes and a higher crash rate than other sections. It will also meet the growing transport demands and ease congestion approaching the Canberra region. Duplication of the highway will ensure safer and more reliable journeys for almost 13,000 road users who use the Barton Highway daily.

When will work start on the Murrumbateman bypass?

A bypass of Murrumbateman has been flagged as the fourth stage of the Barton Highway Upgrade. Transport for NSW currently has funding for the first and second stages of duplication and is pursuing further funding opportunities for future stages however, at this stage the bypass is unfunded.

The Murrumbateman bypass would sit to the east of the village. The current concept design and road boundaries were finalised in 2011 and includes interchanges at Hillview Road and Euroka Avenue. This stage of work will be investigated in further detail when funding allows.

How can I find out more about the project?

For more information, go to nswroads.work/barton, call 1800 931 250 or email barton.highway@transport.nsw.gov.au