



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Transport for NSW

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

Little Hartley to Lithgow (West Section)

Review of Environmental Factors – Concept design fact sheet

November 2021



Coxs River Road will be the first section of the upgrade to be constructed (visualisation 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.

The NSW Government first announced an upgrade from Mount Victoria to Lithgow in May 2008. The local community was consulted to help determine a preferred upgrade route and a concept design was completed in 2013.

Transport for NSW (Transport) consulted with the community on the concept design again in November and December 2019.

We are now presenting a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and concept design for the Little Hartley to Lithgow upgrade for community consultation from **22 November** to **21 December 2021**.

We invite the community and other interested stakeholders to submit feedback to help inform next steps for the proposal.

How has Transport developed the proposed upgrade?

Transport worked closely with the community from 2008 to 2013 to develop the concept design for the upgrade of the Great Western Highway between Mount Victoria and Lithgow. The local community was involved in consultation sessions, workshops and field surveys to help determine a preferred upgrade route.

As part of the concept development, a corridor through Newnes Plateau was investigated but was ruled out as it required land needed by the Department of Defence at Marangaroo. Other alignments to the north and south were also considered, but were much longer and the terrain more challenging than the preferred option through the Hartley Valley.

A concept design was completed in 2013 and the selected road corridor reserved in the Local Environmental Plans for the Blue Mountains and Lithgow City councils.

In March 2019, the NSW Government committed \$2.5 billion towards upgrading the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow. Transport consulted with the local community along the entire corridor in November and December 2019.

In the 2021 Federal budget, the Australian Government committed \$2.03 billion towards the delivery of the eastern and western sections of the upgrade, including the section between Little Hartley and Lithgow.

Consultation since 2019

Throughout 2020/21 the project team has consulted with residents living near major intersections on the highway between Little Hartley and Lithgow to further refine and improve elements of the concept design.

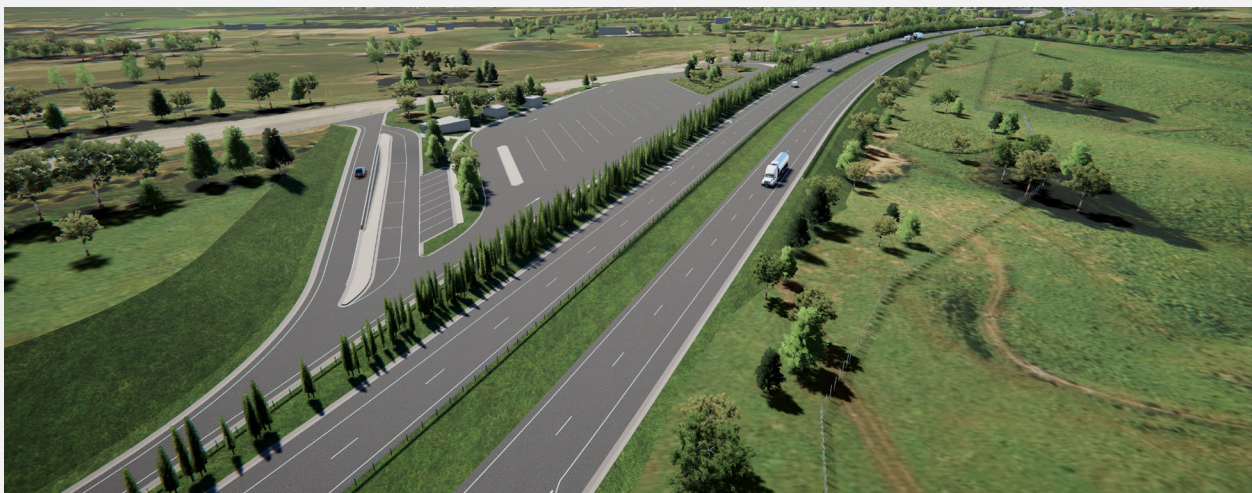
Consultation has primarily focused on improving road safety and intersection treatments, ensuring a high level of local access for residents, and early engagement with affected property owners. This has resulted in improvements to the concept design completed in 2013.

The broader community and other stakeholders throughout NSW are now invited to provide comment on the Little Hartley to Lithgow REF and concept design. Feedback received will be used to refine and improve the design further.

Concept design

To provide flexibility for development and delivery, the concept design is presented in four sections:

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



Hartley Valley Rest Area (eastbound), looking south-east (visualisation indicative only, final layout to be determined through detailed design)

Little Hartley to River Lett Hill (east)

Realignment of about three kilometres of the Great Western Highway with two lanes in each direction from the base of Victoria Pass to west of River Lett, excluding the Coxs River Road section.

Key features

- Two bridges over the new highway east of Coxs River Road and west of Mid Hartley Road to maintain the local road connections
- Improved alignment of the highway and provision of two lanes in each direction, with the existing highway becoming a service road
- Upgrade of the junction of Carroll Drive with the new highway
- Two rest areas (eastbound and westbound) for heavy, light and recreational vehicles near Mid Hartley Road and Carroll Drive, connected by a service road

How we've improved upon the 2013 concept design

- Improved, safer location for the Hartley Valley tunnel portal, which reduces property impacts
- Rest areas will cater for heavy, light and recreational vehicles with the addition of facilities like picnic tables, toilets and information boards to showcase the local area
- Rest areas set lower than previously to reduce visual impact, with urban design and landscaping used to further integrate these into their surroundings

Coxs River Road

Realignment of around 2.4km of the Great Western Highway with two lanes in each direction from east of Coxs River Road to near the Hartley Cemetery.

Key features

- Grade separated interchange at Coxs River Road, supplemented by new sections of connecting roadway to create a local service road network
- Realignment of the existing highway near Browns Gap Road to create a local service road
- Upgrades to the junctions at Browns Gap Road and Baaners Lane, including a U-turn bay on Baaners Lane
- Retaining wall on the highway eastbound adjacent to the Lolly Bug

How we've improved upon the 2013 concept design

- Provided three additional acceleration lanes from local roads to connect safely to the new highway
- Relocated the connection road near Harp of Erin further west to avoid acquisition
- Lowered the Coxs River Road overbridge
- Drainage improvements on the highway near the Coxs River Road bridge
- Junction improvements at Ambermere Drive



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

River Lett Hill (west) to Forty Bends

Realignment and/or widening of about four kilometres of the Great Western Highway to at least two lanes in each direction between the River Lett and Forty Bends Road (eastern end).

Key features

- Twin bridges over Jenolan Caves Road and Blackmans Creek Road to form a grade separated interchange
- Twin bridges over River Lett, with the existing bridge retained as part of a local road connection to the new highway, including barrier upgrade works
- Realignment of the existing highway from Jenolan Caves Road to about 250 metres south of Forty Bends Road (eastern end) to improve the gradient of the road on River Lett Hill and provide for a climbing (third) lane westbound. The existing highway in this section would be converted to a local service road where feasible, including connection to the eastbound on and off ramps

- Upgrade to the junctions with Blackmans Creek Road and Kelly Street, including a realignment of Kelly Street
- Extension of the existing box culverts at Boxes Creek
- Three combined drainage and fauna crossing culverts

How we've improved upon the 2013 concept design

- Addition of a westbound climbing (third) lane for heavy/slow vehicles, improving road safety and travel time



Artist's representation of Jenolan Caves Road bridge, looking north-east (indicative only, final layout to be determined through detailed design)

Forty Bends to Lithgow

Widening about 4.5 kilometres of the Great Western Highway to two lanes in each direction from Forty Bends Road (eastern junction) to Magpie Hollow Road.

Key features

- An additional westbound lane in the existing verge and an additional eastbound lane in the existing median
- Upgrades to junctions at McKanes Falls Road, Old Bathurst Road and Mudgee Street
- Modifications to the junction at Forty Bends Road (western junction)
- Widening at South Bowenfels is predominantly into the hillside due to the location of heritage properties, resulting in a significant length of retaining structures

How we've improved upon the 2013 concept design

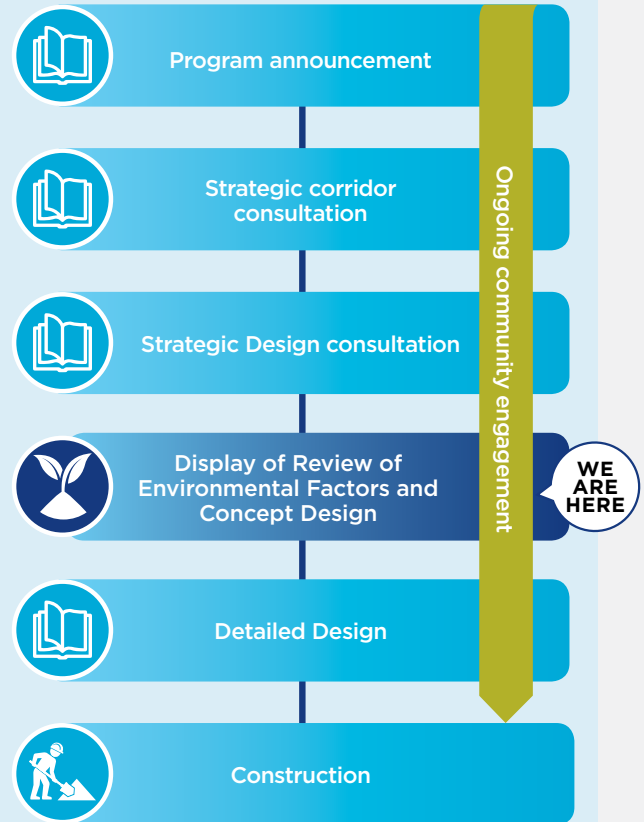
- Provision of four lanes from Forty Bends to the existing four lanes in Lithgow

Next steps

Transport will use your feedback to continue to refine and improve the design of the Little Hartley to Lithgow upgrade.

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

Where are we



Katoomba to Lithgow

The REF for Katoomba to Blackheath (East Section – excluding Medlow Bath) will be available for consultation in early 2022.

The environmental assessment for Blackheath to Little Hartley (Central Section) will be available for consultation in late 2022.



Artist's representation of new Great Western Highway, near the intersection of Old Bathurst Road, looking south (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

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.

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

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



Great Western Highway
Upgrade Program

PO Box 334, Parkes NSW 2870



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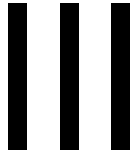
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To mail this feedback form fold along the dotted line and seal with clear tape.
Mail your completed form (no stamp required) to address below.

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Transport for NSW
Little Hartley to Lithgow REF
Submission
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