



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Transport for NSW

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors

Traffic and transport fact sheet

July 2021



Widening the Great Western Highway to four lanes at Medlow Bath will improve traffic conditions for local residents, tourists and through traffic (image credit: Spackman Mossop Michaels)

Together the Australian and NSW Governments are investing more than \$4.5 billion towards upgrading the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow. 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.

Residents and businesses in Medlow Bath will benefit from improved traffic safety, access and connectivity.

Improvements include widening the Highway to four lanes through the village, adding right turning lanes, traffic lights, and a U-turn bay at Bellevue Crescent.

Transport for NSW (Transport) is also presenting an alternative option for traffic signals near the service station and we welcome your feedback on this option.

We are presenting a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and Concept Design for the Medlow Bath Upgrade for community consultation from 26 July to 24 August 2021.

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



Building four lanes



New traffic lights



Intersection improvements

Bellevue Crescent and Station Street

The Medlow Bath Upgrade has already helped deliver safety improvements to intersections at Bellevue Crescent and Foy Avenue. Motorists now have dedicated turning lanes for turning right into these streets and widened shoulders to help those turning left.

Continuing to improve safety at Bellevue Crescent is a priority of the upgrade through Medlow Bath. Feasible options for upgrading the intersection at Bellevue Crescent include:

- placing traffic lights and a U-turn bay at Bellevue Crescent to provide safer access to the Crescent, and allow for U-turning traffic to access the United Service Station and other properties on the eastern side of the Highway.
- relocating the Bellevue Crescent intersection to land next to the United Service Station, and through the Hydro Majestic land directly behind the service station. This option allows access to the United Service

Station via the new connection, provides a connection to the Hydro Majestic, and allows traffic exiting the Hydro Majestic and the service station to turn east towards Katoomba without travelling on Bellevue Crescent. This option would reduce the need for vehicles exiting the Hydro Majestic to perform U-turns at Station Street and avoids the acquisition of one home in Bellevue Crescent.

Safety, impacts to existing and future access, property impacts, and traffic flow and volumes have all been important considerations in examining these options. We would particularly value your feedback on the options presented.

In response to your feedback, Station Street will remain open to two-way traffic and the existing property access and footpath would remain.

Concept Design



Alternate alignment



Transport is seeking community feedback on the options presented to further improve safety at Bellevue Crescent

Turning traffic

Intersections with the Highway have been reduced and streamlined by the concept design to improve safety for turning traffic. We have carried out detailed traffic modelling and a comprehensive traffic study to improve the design to better allow for local traffic U-turn movements.

The village centre has been designed with suitable lane widths, markings, signposting and turning bays to provide improved access for local traffic.

The design incorporates a turning bay for right turns into the Hydro Majestic, which matches the approved development consent currently held by the Hydro Majestic.

The upgrade would reduce congestion and provide safe access to the Highway, particularly at the intersection of the Highway and Bellevue Crescent, on both weekdays and weekends.

Parking

To make best use of the existing road corridor, all parking will be removed from the Highway at Medlow Bath. However, the concept design provides commuter parking on Railway Parade near the Rural Fire Services property, which is closely located to the eastern stairs and lift of the proposed pedestrian bridge.



The proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade design provides formal commuter parking on Railway Parade (image credit: Spackman Mossop Michaels)

When we are building

We are not expecting traffic and transport for residents and businesses to be substantially impacted during construction.

The Highway would remain open at all times, with the exception of a short-term closure proposed for lifting the pedestrian bridge into place.

We will coordinate this work with businesses, the community, freight operators and highway users to find the best time for the short-term closure of the Highway. The closure is anticipated to take no longer than one hour to complete the bridge lift.

Because we'll be widening the road, construction will require changed traffic conditions. However, we'll undertake activities with potential for high traffic impacts during off-peak hours to minimise delays and congestion.

While parking spaces along the western side of the Highway in front of the Hydro Majestic will be removed during construction, alternative parking will be available.

We will maintain access to all properties throughout construction, and will make contact when temporary changes access to are required.

Reducing the impact of our work

Whenever possible, we will undertake high traffic activities during off-peak hours and keep the highway open in both directions through staging of traffic switches.

We will provide on-site parking for construction staff to reduce impacts on parking.

Bus and rail services will continue to operate as scheduled.

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 mitigation measures of a project. Feedback on this REF will inform the approval of the proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade.

View the REF and Concept Design

You can view the Medlow Bath Upgrade REF and Concept Design at our virtual consultation room at nswroads.work/gwhdconsult

Have your say

We will hold online consultation sessions where you can ask our team any questions you have and tell us what you think.

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

Wednesday 28 July 1.00–2.30pm
Saturday 31 July 12.30–2.00pm

Tuesday 3 August 6.30–8.00pm
Thursday 5 August 6.30–8.00pm

Register for our Microsoft Teams live-stream consultation sessions at nswroads.work/gwhdconsult

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

What is a Concept Design?

The Concept Design is a project design that is developed in sufficient detail to allow an assessment of likely environmental, social and economic impacts so that stakeholders can consider the proposed project and provide feedback. The concept design may change based on feedback provided by stakeholders.

Face-to-face consultation

As COVID-19 restrictions are once again in place, we regret we are unlikely to be able to offer face-to-face consultation at this time.

Consultation will be held online to ensure your safety and comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

If restrictions ease before consultation ends we will organise face-to-face consultation, in line with existing guidelines at that time.

How to make a formal submission

We welcome all feedback on the Medlow Bath Upgrade 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/gwhdconsult or mail a printed submission to:

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program
Medlow Bath Upgrade REF & Concept
Design PO Box 2332, Orange NSW 2800

Consultation and exhibition is open from 26 July - 24 August. All formal submissions must be received by midnight, 24 August.

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 2332, Orange NSW 2800



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