



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Transport for NSW

Great Western Highway Upgrade – Katoomba to Lithgow

Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors Consultation Report



October 2022



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1. Executive Summary

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.

In November 2019, the strategic corridor for the proposed upgrade between Katoomba and Lithgow was released to the community for feedback. This included the previously reserved corridor from Mount Victoria to Lithgow and a new corridor between Katoomba and Mount Victoria.

A summary of feedback from the 2019 consultation period can be found at nswroads.work/gwhd.

Medlow Bath is the first section of the Program to begin detailed design and environmental assessment.

The Government has prioritised Medlow Bath as the first section of the Great Western Highway to be upgraded because:

- ongoing safety and accessibility benefits can be provided for local traffic and pedestrians while the remaining corridor is developed
- the corridor is well defined so the Highway can be widened with minimal property and environmental impacts
- upgrading the township first prevents congestion when the links between towns are built.

The Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and Concept Design for Medlow Bath was publicly displayed and feedback was sought from the community from July 27 until 5 September 2021.

This report provides a summary of the consultation process implemented during the Medlow Bath REF display and outlines the next steps in the progression of the Program.

Following the close of the Medlow Bath REF display and consideration of feedback received, the design is now being finalised.

Submissions have been categorised and formally responded to in the Submissions Report to the REF. The Submissions Report is now available on the project website.

The release of the Submissions Report effectively means the REF is determined and the project is approved to progress to the construction phase.

“This upgrade in general is long overdue & will make a huge improvement to liveability, accessibility and longevity of Medlow Bath.”

Feedback received during consultation



1.1 Purpose of this report

This Community Consultation Summary Report (the Report) summarises the community engagement activities carried out during the display of the Medlow Bath REF.

Between Tuesday 27 July and Sunday 5 September 2021, Transport for NSW (Transport) carried out public consultation and invited feedback from the community and stakeholders on the Review of Environmental Factors and the concept design for the upgrade of the Great Western Highway through Medlow Bath.

Formal feedback was invited by all interested stakeholders and was widely promoted within the Blue Mountains, the Central West and Western Sydney.

The insights and feedback gathered from the community and stakeholders in this stage of consultation will be considered in the final design of the upgrade at Medlow Bath.

The Project Team will use the knowledge gained to refine and improve the design to minimise impacts on, and create added benefits for, the township of Medlow Bath.

We will continue to build and maintain relationships with the Medlow Bath community and stakeholders throughout all phases of the Medlow Bath upgrade and the wider Program, and will continue to update the community as the program progresses.



The pedestrian bridge is over bearing.

Feedback received during consultation



Artists impression of the pedestrian bridge over Medlow Bath Railway Station

2. Program Context

2.1 The Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

The Great Western Highway Upgrade Program proposes to deliver 34 kilometres of four lane carriageway between Katoomba and Lithgow. Together, the Australian and NSW Governments are investing \$4.5 billion towards upgrading the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow.

Within that overall funding commitment, 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 upgrade, once completed, will reduce congestion and provide safer, more efficient and reliable journeys for everyone travelling in, around and through the Blue Mountains, and better connect communities in the Central West.

The NSW Government has progressively upgraded sections of the Great Western Highway to make it safer and more reliable for all road users. The section between Emu Plains and Katoomba has already been completed,

and has resulted in a 76.8 per cent drop in 'car crash' fatalities and a 27.7 per cent drop in crash rates.

We now propose to upgrade and duplicate the Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow, starting with the Medlow Bath project.

In February 2020, the Program was listed by Infrastructure Australia as a priority initiative.

This means that it is officially recognised as a priority infrastructure investment which Australia needs in order to secure a sustainable and prosperous future.

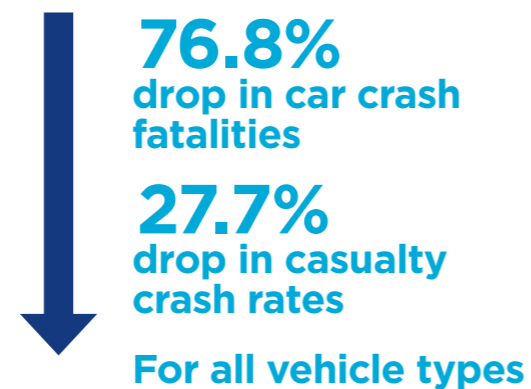
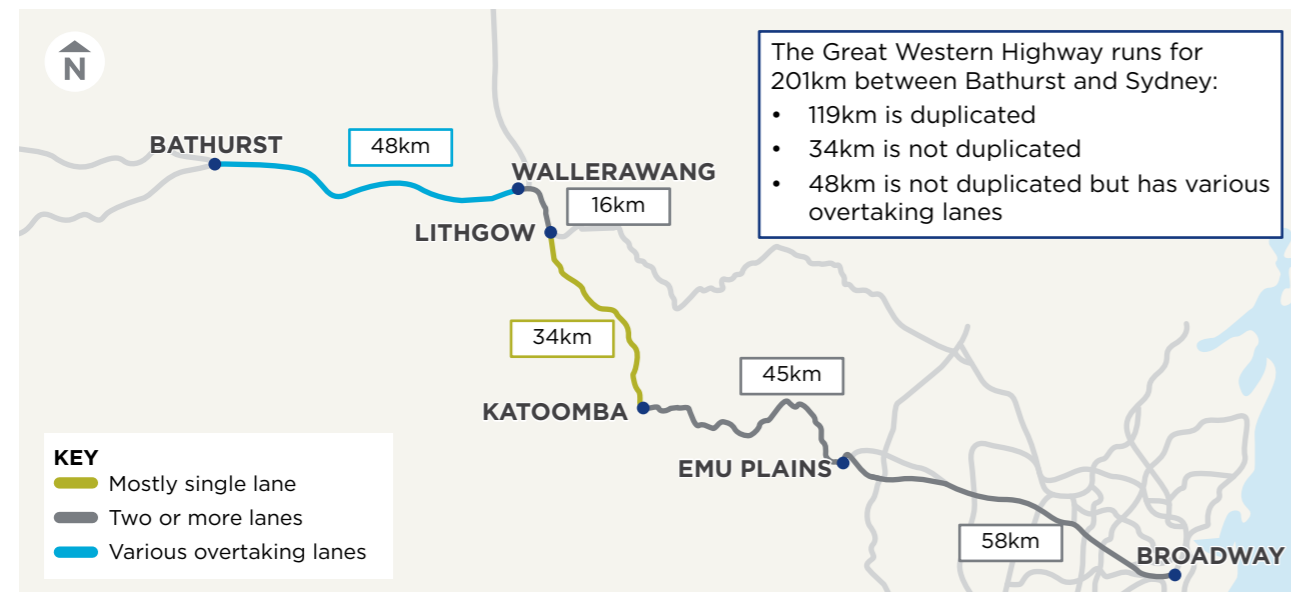


Figure 1 Once the Great Western Highway Upgrade Program is complete, the Great Western Highway will be at least two lanes in each direction from Broadway to Wallerawang



2.1.1 Delivering benefits for all road users

The Great Western Highway Upgrade Program from Katoomba to Lithgow aims to deliver the following benefits:



Improved safety: reduced safety risks along the corridor for all road users



Enhanced network performance: improved congestion and travel time reliability



Improved and promoted: regional economic development and productivity, and increased freight efficiency



Enhanced liveability and amenity: maintained and improved local amenity and character, and protected environmental cultural assets



Improved resilience and future proof: provided a dependable and adaptable transport network which enables continuity of transport and essential services.

2.1.2 The essential transport role of the Great Western Highway

The Great Western Highway acts as the key road transport route across and along the Great Dividing Range for all vehicles, including emergency and essential services, local commuters, through commuters, tourists and freight. Those travelling through the Blue Mountains largely choose to travel by road.

Within the Blue Mountains, the Highway serves an important role, by acting as the main street for townships such as Blackheath, Medlow Bath and Mount Victoria.

Local residents use the Highway every day to get to work, do their shopping, take children to and from school, and enjoy the area's natural attractions and recreational opportunities.

Blue Mountains residents have indicated that over the next five years they will use private vehicles up to 15 per cent more than they do currently.

The Program aims to preserve the unique character of the Blue Mountains communities, and local consultation is a vital part of that process.

Tourism in the Blue Mountains and Central West is growing in popularity. Tourists rely on the road to visit some of the world's most beautiful National Parks and World Heritage areas, or to travel through to tourist destinations on either side of the mountains.

This increase in tourism provides economic benefits for those communities and NSW as a whole, but is contributing to the congestion experienced through the Blue Mountains.

As a state highway, the Great Western Highway's role as a transport corridor is critical for NSW.



More than 95 per cent of people travelling through the Blue Mountains between Katoomba and Lithgow for non-freight trips choose to travel by road

Central West region is expected to grow to more than 300,000 people during the next 20 years

The Great Western Highway is the key connector from the Central West and Orana and, with alternate routes up to 100km longer, is the fastest route for those in Dubbo, Orange, Bathurst and surrounds, to reach Sydney.

More than 95 per cent of people travelling through the Blue Mountains between Katoomba and Lithgow for non-freight trips choose to travel by road.

It is also part of the National Land Transport Network and is a crucial freight transport corridor from the Central West to Sydney and the mountains.

The Central West is NSW's third largest regional centre and contributes 12 per cent to the state's gross regional product. This region is expected to grow to more than 300,000 people during the next 20 years.

As NSW's population and manufacturing capability grows, so too will the freight task to service those needs. The Great Western Highway Upgrade Program will support growth in key industries in the Central West.



The Great Western Highway plays a key role in tourism in the Blue Mountains and beyond

Industries within the Katoomba to Lithgow corridor, such as quarries and timber mills, also make a significant contribution to the freight moving along the Highway.

Approximately 40 per cent of road freight within the Blue Mountains is used or produced in the Mountains – starting or ending its journey between Lithgow and Katoomba, on or nearby the Highway.

Future customers will continue to rely on both road and rail along the Katoomba to Lithgow corridor.

2.1.3 Highway capacity

The Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow has a higher average traffic volume than other duplicated highways.

There are more than 15,000 vehicle movements per day in Blackheath, more than 19,000 at Medlow Bath, and more than 20,000 at Katoomba.

This exceeds average traffic numbers of more than 15,000 vehicles per day on the Pacific Highway at Grafton, the Princes Highway at Berry, or the Hume Highway at Goulburn.

The Great Western Highway Upgrade Program will support growth in key industries in the Central West

More than half of the freight moved between Katoomba and Lithgow is transported by road

Traffic peaks and congestion are common both during the week and weekends with journey times increasing by at least 20 minutes at peak times.

Congestion is especially restrictive during special events and the school holiday periods. Breakdowns and other unexpected traffic

events can also cause significant delays along the highway which can result in an additional 90 minutes of travel time.

As the route design is refined through community consultation, we will look at opportunities to progressively improve congestion and deliver more consistent speeds across the entire route.

Traffic on the Great Western Highway is projected to grow and the upgrade is being planned to deliver long term resilience and capacity. This upgrade will improve congestion and safety, and cater for future growth beyond 2036.

2.2 The Medlow Bath project

The NSW Government has prioritised Medlow Bath as stage one of the first section of the Great Western Highway Upgrade Program to start construction.

Transport proposes to upgrade a 1.3 kilometre section of the Great Western Highway through Medlow Bath, from the Station Street Bridge to approximately 400 metres south of Bellevue Crescent.

Upgrading the Great Western Highway in Medlow Bath is constrained by the ridgetop terrain, private property along the Highway and the rail line. Bypassing the township on the east was considered in the 1950s and ruled out due to impacts on the residential area.

The existing corridor through Medlow Bath is well suited to widening. This proposed upgrade builds on work completed in 2002 during the bridge replacement over the railway lines at Station Street.

The proposed upgrade will include widening the existing Highway within the current road corridor property boundaries through the township, while maintaining the 60km/h speed limit.


Medlow Bath has been prioritised because:


- ongoing safety and accessibility benefits can be provided for local traffic and pedestrians while the remaining corridor is developed


- the corridor is well defined so the Highway can be widened with minimal property and environmental impacts
- upgrading the township first prevents congestion when the links between towns are built.

2.3 Benefits


The upgrade will deliver immediate benefits for Medlow Bath, including:


 Safer vehicle access at Bellevue Crescent


 Safer pedestrian access across the Highway


 Safer pedestrian access to the rail station

 Improved accessibility for all public transport users

 Improved vehicle access to the Hydro Majestic

 A new shared pathway for pedestrians and cyclists

 New landscaping in the median strip

 Improved capacity, which will reduce levels of congestion

3. Proposed Concept Design

3.1 What does the Concept Design include?

A 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 Medlow Bath Upgrade Concept Design was developed in response to the feedback received during community consultation in 2020.

The Concept Design proposed for the Medlow Bath upgrade featured in the REF includes:

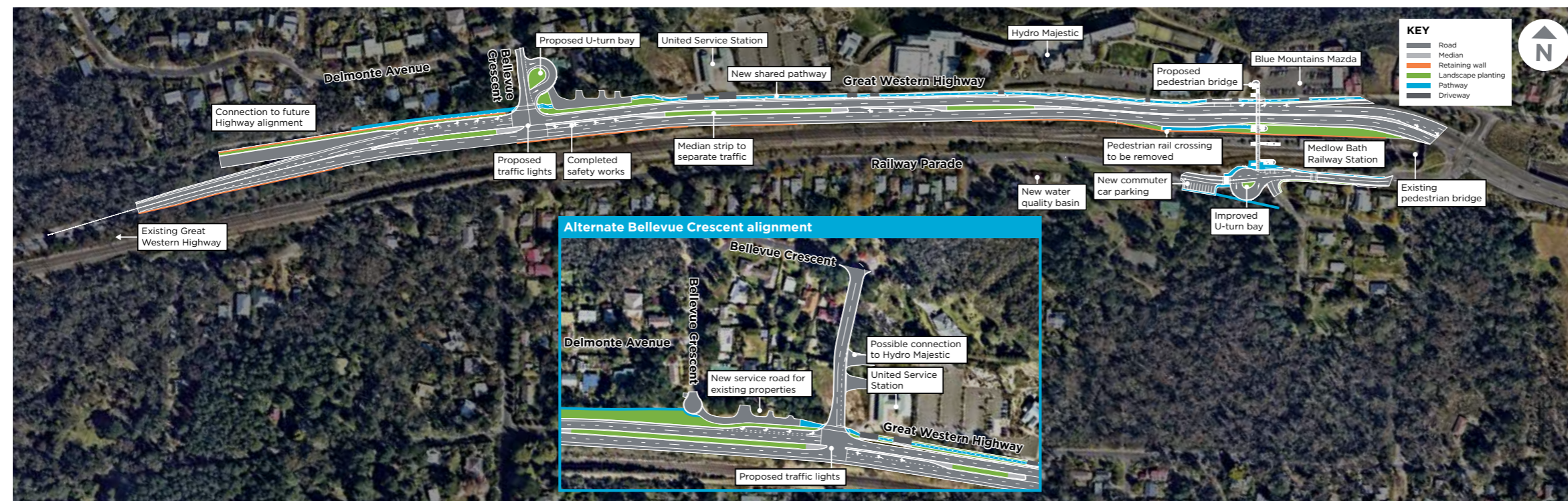
- Better separation between the shared pathway and the Highway with a one-metre vegetated buffer in addition to the road shoulder.
- Improved landscaping.
- Safer access for residents whose properties directly access the Highway, with relocated driveways to be installed as part of the project.
- The maintenance of two way traffic flow and existing property access on Station Street.
- Retaining walls along Station Street which have been reduced by keeping their height close to the existing conditions.
- Traffic lights at Bellevue Crescent to make accessing the Crescent safer and to slow and control traffic entering the 60km zone in Medlow Bath.
- A U-turn bay at Bellevue Crescent to help traffic change direction to access the service station and other properties on the eastern side of the Highway.



Artists representation of the upgrade looking northwest on the Highway in front of the Hydro Majestic Hotel.

3.2 Design map

Figure 2 Medlow Bath Concept Design displayed during the consultation period



“Thanks for delivering a great plan which we believe will enhance life for the people of Medlow Bath. It provides, safety, convenience, equality of access and beauty”

Feedback received during consultation”

4. Consultation

4.1 Values

Transport for NSW's values underpin our decisions and behaviours when working with customers, colleagues, stakeholders and partners. They include:

- **Customer focus** – We place the customer at the centre of everything we do
- **Collaboration** – We value each other and create better outcomes by working together
- **Solutions** – We deliver sustainable and innovative solutions to NSW's transport needs
- **Integrity** – We take responsibility and communicate openly
- **Safety** – We prioritise safety for our people and our customers.

4.2 Communication objectives

The communication objectives for this Program are to:

- Provide clear, consistent and timely information to communities, stakeholders and customers on the Program
- Build relationships and a database of contacts of interested and concerned community members with whom TfNSW will continue to engage with throughout the development and delivery of the Great Western Highway Upgrade Program
- Provide meaningful opportunities for the community to provide feedback
- Listen to community and stakeholder views to help shape the design of the Program
- Raise awareness of the Program and its benefits and impacts throughout all phases including planning and construction
- Establish relationships and build trust with the local community, particularly local stakeholder groups, business and any directly impacted residents/landowners
- Provide clarity to the local community on the Concept Design for Medlow Bath
- Actively accept and respond to feedback and input from the local community on the elements of the strategic design, including within the period of consultation

- Ensure that members of the local community have sufficient opportunity to provide feedback, in light of fluid COVID-19 advice and restrictions on community consultation.

4.3 Consultation method

Consultation was initially scheduled to take place from Monday 26 July until Wednesday 24 August. Consultation launched on Tuesday 27 July.

Following requests from the Medlow Bath community, the consultation period was extended to Sunday 5 September 2021, to allow all residents additional time to read the REF and provide feedback.

Due to COVID-19 guidelines and a stay-at-home order put in place for Greater Sydney on June 26, face-to-face consultation was not possible.

Four online sessions were organised in lieu of traditional face-to-face consultation and phone consultations were available and encouraged. A further two online sessions were added in response to community calls for extended access to the project team.

The project team were available for phone consultations for stakeholders who preferred to speak to the project team in this manner.

Hard copies of the REF were printed out and delivered to local community members on request. An additional Community Update containing a reply paid submission form was also distributed midway through the consultation.

Formal feedback was welcomed through the interactive online portal, email or mail during the consultation period.

The community was able to contact the project team on the details below:

- 1800 953 777
- gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au
- PO Box 2332, Orange NSW 2800
- nswroads.work/gwhd

Stakeholders and community members were encouraged to provide feedback on the REF and concept design, including the following:

- 80 per cent Concept Design
- two options for Bellevue Crescent; the 'preferred' and 'alternative' option
- Urban design and landscaping
- Traffic and transport
- Property
- Pedestrians and cyclists
- Cultural heritage
- Water quality
- Noise and vibration
- Flora and fauna
- Medlow Bath Station and pedestrian bridge.

4.4 How consultation took place

Tool/Activity	Description
Communications material	
Community update	A six-page community update was developed and delivered to Medlow Bath residents. It included a map of the Medlow Bath Concept Design
Appendix A	The community update was also made available on the project website at nswroads.work/gwhdconsult Medlow Bath residents who registered to the project database were also emailed a PDF copy and a link to the community update online. The distribution zone for the community update appears in the appendices as appendix F.
Fact sheets	Nine facts sheets were developed to provide summaries to key components of the REF document. The subjects featured in the fact sheets were titled: Flora and Fauna, Cultural Heritage, Medlow Bath Station, Noise and Vibration, Pedestrians and Cyclists, Property, Traffic and Transport, Urban Design and Landscaping and Water Quality.
Appendix G	
Community update Reply Paid feature	A secondary community update including a reply paid submission form which could be handwritten and posted to the project team, was printed and distributed to Medlow Bath residents in early August following community concerns that people without internet access were facing difficulties in making an online submission.
Appendix B	
Static display	A static display was set up in the Katoomba Shopping Centre which encouraged people to take information home to read.
Poster	A poster promoting the REF display, information session and instructions on how to make a submission appeared in social media ads, in the static display and on the online portal.
Consultation sessions and community meetings	
Consultation sessions	Community consultation sessions were all held online, in line with NSW Health guidelines at the following times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 28 July: 1pm–2:30pm • Saturday 31 July: 12:30pm–2pm • Tuesday 3 August: 6:30–8pm • Thursday 5 August: 6:30–8pm • Friday 13 August: 12:30pm–2pm • Tuesday 17 August: 6:30–8pm

Tool/Activity	Description
Stakeholder group meetings	<p>The following stakeholder group meetings were held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medlow Bath Highway Action Group, 27 July, 2, 12 and 16 August 2021 • Medlow Bath Residents' Association, 27 July, 2, 16 and 18 August 2021 • Medlow Bath Rural Fire Service, 18 August 2021 • Blue Mountains Cycling Safety Forum (11 and 25 August 2021)
Business meetings	<p>The project team met with the following businesses located on the Great Western Highway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hydro Majestic Hotel (12 and 23 August 2021) • The Chalet (20 August 2021) • CDC Buses (16 August 2021) • Lithgow Busline (19 August 2021) • United Service Station property owner (9 September)
Personalised meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project team had ten phone consultations with individual residents
Media and advertising	
Advertisement	<p>An advertisement about the Medlow Bath REF display was published in:</p> <p>Appendix C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27-Jul-2021 Cowra Guardian • 27-Jul-2021 Forbes Advocate • 27-Jul-2021 Lithgow Mercury • 27-Jul-2021 Mudgee Guardian • 27-Jul-2021 Parkes Champion Post • 28-Jul-2021 Blue Mountains Gazette • 28-Jul-2021 Dubbo Daily Liberal • 28-Jul-2021 Orange Central Western Daily • 28-Jul-2021 Bathurst Western Advocate • 29-Jul-2021 Oberon Review • 30-Jul-2021 Penrith Western Weekender <p>A further advertisement to announce the extension of the consultation period was published in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Mountains Gazette (25 August 2021). • Lithgow Mercury (24 August 2021).

Tool/Activity	Description																														
Radio	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Station</th> <th>26 July - 1 Aug</th> <th>2-8 Aug</th> <th>9-15 Aug</th> <th>16-24 Aug</th> <th>Total spots</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>WS FM</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>0</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2LT</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> <td>7</td> <td>9</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1089</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> <td>7</td> <td>9</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2BS</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> <td>7</td> <td>9</td> <td>44</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Station	26 July - 1 Aug	2-8 Aug	9-15 Aug	16-24 Aug	Total spots	WS FM	7	7	7	0	21	2LT	14	14	7	9	44	1089	14	14	7	9	44	2BS	14	14	7	9	44
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2BS	14	14	7	9	44																										
Media releases	<p>Two media releases were distributed via the project website and through engagement with local media:</p> <p>Appendix E</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medlow Bath REF display period announced - community invited to have their say (27 July 2021) • Extension of the Medlow Bath REF consultation period (27 August 2021). 																														
Digital tools and social media																															
Website and interactive portal	<p>The Transport for NSW website, nswroads.work/greatwesternhighway was used to provide information about consultation, including online bookings, the online interactive map and feedback form.</p>																														
Facebook	<p>Facebook was used to provide information about the consultation period with posts on the NSW Roads page staggered out to appear over five weeks:</p> <p>Appendix D</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posts 1 and 2 (27 July-2 August 2021) • Post 3 (5-11 August 2021) • Post 4 (27 August-3 September 2021) 																														
Direct contact channels																															
Email	<p>The Program's email, gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au, was publicised for the community to contact the project team directly with queries, concerns and to make formal REF submissions.</p>																														
Phone	<p>The project hotline was also advertised for the community to contact the project team directly with queries and concerns, and to book phone and online consultations. The hotline number is 1800 953 777.</p>																														



Impact of lockdown restrictions made the stated aim of maintaining “clear lines of communication” difficult.

Feedback received during consultation



5. Consultation Summary

5.1 Overview


During the consultation period, we received 348 formal submissions from 250 individual members of the community, businesses and stakeholders. Of this feedback, 154 were online feedback forms, 160 were email submissions and 34 were sent in via the post.

The four social media ads collectively reached 83,634 Facebook users across the Blue Mountains, Central West, Orana and Western Sydney. The posts, which promoted the consultation period and process, attracted 245 reactions, 184 comments, and 83 shares.

Six community information sessions were held and collectively attended by 146 people, with some people attending two or more sessions. Due to stay-at-home orders in place due to COVID-19 for the duration of the consultation period, all information sessions were held online. The community was shown a half hour presentation from the team explaining the concept design, the REF details and process and the design and rationale for the proposed pedestrian bridge. This was followed by a one hour question and answer session. More than 400 questions were received and discussed during these online consultation sessions.

For those unable to attend the online sessions, phone consultations were offered and encouraged. Ten phone conversations were held during the consultation period.

Reply paid submission forms were also sent to the suburb of Medlow Bath to encourage postal submissions for those unable to, or uncomfortable with, making a submission online. Fifteen reply paid submissions were received.



348
Formal submissions from 250 members of the community, businesses and stakeholders

154 were online submission forms

160 were email and **34** were posted in

245 reactions, **184** comments, and **84** shares were received on four social media posts

More than **400** questions were asked and answered at the online consultation sessions

Key issues raised by the community included:



I think this project is a massive step forward for Medlow Bath and can't wait for it to get started.

Feedback received during consultation



My primary concern as a resident of Railway Parade is the worsening noise and light pollution.

Feedback received during consultation



The virtual consultation room on the Medlow Bath online portal.

6. Next Steps

Transport for NSW will shortly determine the REF for Medlow Bath.

If the project is approved, Transport will complete a detailed design, which may reflect improvements based on the submissions to the REF.

Construction on the Medlow Bath upgrade is expected to start with the pedestrian bridge and associated work on Railway Parade in early 2022.

Construction for the upgrade of the surface road through Medlow Bath is anticipated to begin late 2022. We will continue to update the community with details about construction plans for Medlow Bath in the coming months.

The Review of Environmental Factors for the East section upgrade from Katoomba to Medlow Bath and Medlow Bath to Blackheath sections is progressing, with Aurecon appointed to develop the design and carry out the environmental assessment.

COVID-19 restrictions have impacted investigations for this section, so we are taking some additional time to make sure we complete these investigations fully.

We have also listened to community concerns regarding the amount of material to review, and have made the decision to minimise this impact by separating the exhibition of the two REFs.

The REF for the East section is anticipated to be on public display in early 2022.

The Review of Environmental Factors for the West section upgrade from Little Hartley to Lithgow is also progressing, with JAJV appointed to develop the design and carry out the environmental assessment. The REF for the West section is anticipated to be on public display in late 2021.



The sooner we can get this project started the better!

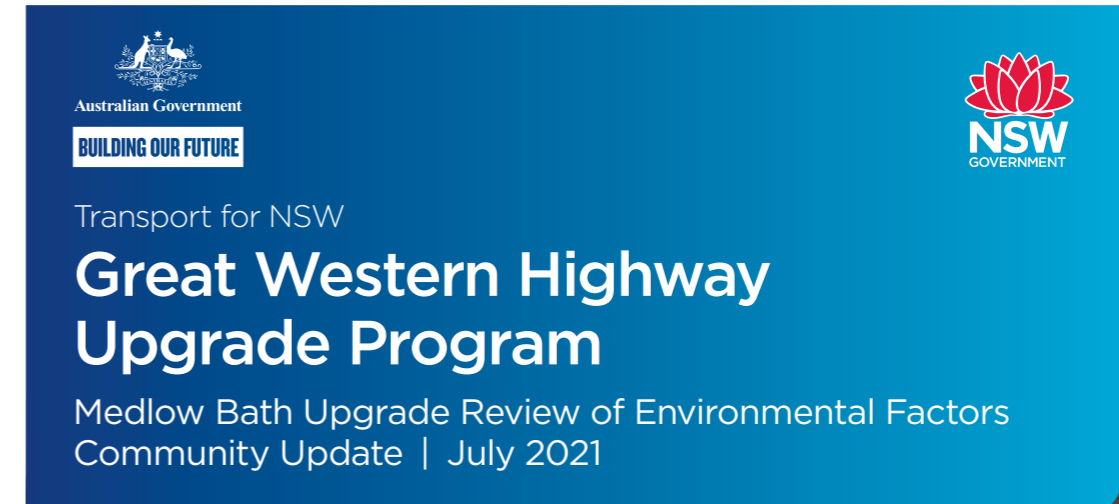
Feedback received during consultation



Existing rail level crossing at Medlow Bath Station

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Community Update



The Medlow Bath Upgrade will prioritise preserving the heritage character of the township

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.

The Medlow Bath Upgrade has been prioritised as the first section of the Highway to be upgraded, and the project has already helped deliver safety improvements to local intersections at Bellevue Crescent and Foy Avenue. These works were planned by the project team and funded by the Federal Government.

Transport for NSW (Transport) is now seeking your feedback on the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and Concept Design for the proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade.



Your input is important in helping to design the best upgrade we can for Medlow Bath. We invite you to review the proposed plans, understand the environmental impacts and have your say.

Feedback on the Medlow Bath Upgrade REF and Concept Design is encouraged from **Monday 26 July to Tuesday 24 August 2021**. Visit our virtual consultation room at nswroads.work/gwhdconsult or talk to staff at one of our consultation sessions to find out more.

Have your say on the Medlow Bath Upgrade

The Medlow Bath Upgrade is the first section of the Great Western Highway Katoomba to Lithgow Upgrade Program to be delivered. Transport understands that community feedback is crucial to ensure we can deliver the best upgrade for Medlow Bath, and we are committed to consulting with the community every step of the way. The Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and Concept Design are now on display and we invite your feedback.

The Upgrade will involve widening the Highway through Medlow Bath within the existing road corridor which has been long reserved for this purpose. The design provides for two lanes in either direction, traffic lights, landscaping, a shared pathway, safety improvements and a pedestrian bridge providing safer access across the Highway and into the Medlow Bath train station.

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. This work was identified and planned by the project team, and funded by Federal Government Road Safety Funding.

Transport is presenting two options to further improve the safety of the Bellevue Crescent intersection. Your feedback will inform the decision on which intersection treatment is progressed in the concept design.

Medlow Bath has been prioritised to be the first section of the Great Western Highway to be upgraded because:

- We can address known safety concerns and provide ongoing safety benefits for local traffic and pedestrians.
- There is ample space to upgrade the existing Highway with minimal property and environmental impacts, allowing faster environmental assessment and approval.
- We can deliver immediate benefits for Medlow Bath while we plan the other, more complex sections of the Great Western Highway Upgrade Program.

The Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

The Great Western Highway Upgrade Program is an infrastructure program of national importance.

Our oldest Highway is falling behind all other major roads out of Sydney. It is the only major roadway with single lanes within 50 kilometres of Greater Sydney, and despite that it carries traffic volumes equal to other major dual-carriageway roads across the state.

This upgrade will complete the link through the Blue Mountains, delivering two lanes in either direction from Lapstone to Lithgow. It will make the Blue Mountains a better place to live by improving safety and access, while also decreasing congestion.



Artist's representation of proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade

Medlow Bath Station and pedestrian bridge

The Medlow Bath pedestrian bridge is being delivered as part of the Transport Access Program, a NSW Government initiative to provide a better experience for public transport customers by delivering accessible and modern transport infrastructure.

As part of this program, Medlow Bath Station will be upgraded to provide a station precinct that is accessible to people with a disability or limited mobility, parents or carers with prams, and customers with luggage.

The station upgrade will provide:

- a new pedestrian bridge crossing both the widened Great Western Highway and the rail corridor; including four new lifts and four sets of stairs providing access to bus stops on both sides of the Great Western Highway, Medlow Bath Station platform and Railway Parade
- minor upgrades to the existing northern footbridge access to the station from Railway Parade

- new accessible parking and commuter parking in Railway Parade near the Rural Fire Station
- a new kiss-and-ride space on Railway Parade near the new footbridge entry
- upgrades to lighting, public announcement (PA), closed circuit television (CCTV) and wayfinding signage
- removal of the existing level crossing

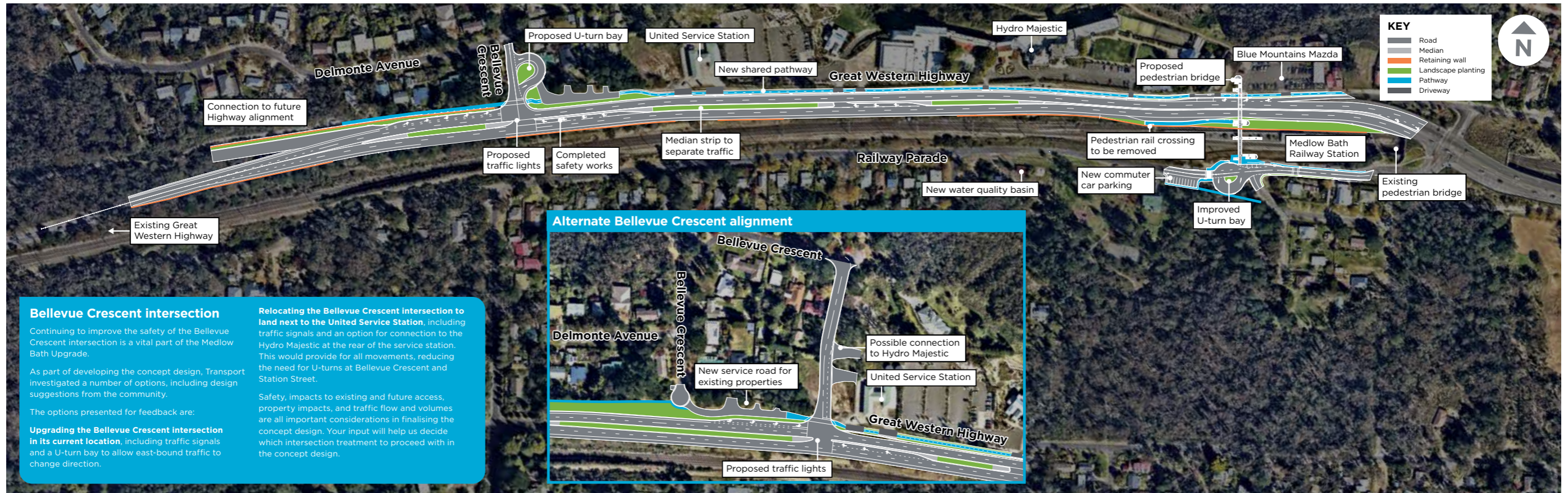
The Medlow Bath pedestrian bridge will be a truss design, to ensure safe support of a bridge spanning both the rail station and the Highway. We have proposed a weathered steel truss design with see-through lift shafts that will blend in with, rather than dominate, the existing cultural and aesthetic character of the village.

We will consult with the community on a Cultural Interpretation Strategy, which will include input into design treatments for the Medlow Bath pedestrian bridge that reflect local heritage and stories.



Medlow Bath Station will be upgraded through the NSW Government's Transport Access Program (TAP) (image credit: Spackman Mossop Michaels)

Concept Design for proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade



Bellevue Crescent intersection

Continuing to improve the safety of the Bellevue Crescent intersection is a vital part of the Medlow Bath Upgrade.

As part of developing the concept design, Transport investigated a number of options, including design suggestions from the community.

The options presented for feedback are:

Upgrading the Bellevue Crescent intersection in its current location, including traffic signals and a U-turn bay to allow east-bound traffic to change direction.

Relocating the Bellevue Crescent intersection to land next to the United Service Station, including traffic signals and an option for connection to the Hydro Majestic at the rear of the service station. This would provide for all movements, reducing the need for U-turns at Bellevue Crescent and Station Street.

Safety, impacts to existing and future access, property impacts, and traffic flow and volumes are all important considerations in finalising the concept design. Your input will help us decide which intersection treatment to proceed with in the concept design.

How we've improved the design from your feedback

We received some great feedback on the Medlow Bath Upgrade. Where possible, we have improved the concept design in response to your feedback, including:

- **Traffic lights at Bellevue Crescent** to make accessing the Crescent safer and to slow and control traffic entering the 60km zone in Medlow Bath.
- **A U-turn bay at Bellevue Crescent** to help traffic change direction to access the service station and other properties on the eastern side of the Highway.
- **Station Street will remain open to two-way traffic** and the existing property access will remain.

- **Retaining walls along Station Street** have been reduced, by keeping levels close to the existing conditions.
- **Better separation between the shared pathway and the Highway** with a one-metre vegetated buffer in addition to the road shoulder.
- **Improved landscaping** using as many of the existing council-planted trees as we can, along with new trees to improve the look and feel of Medlow Bath. We're also removing the Radiata Pines along the Highway which are failing and becoming dangerous. Every tree removed will be replaced as part of the upgrade program.
- **Safer access for residents** whose properties directly access the Highway, with relocated driveways to be installed as part of the project.

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

Tuesday 3 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.

Saturday 31 July
12.30-2.00pm

Thursday 5 August
6.30-8.00pm

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 on 24 August, we will organise face-to-face consultation, in line with the 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

Environmental Assessment

You are invited to have your say on the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the Medlow Bath Upgrade.

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 REF has considered and addressed key themes from previous consultation in Medlow Bath, including:

- Urban design and landscaping
- Traffic and transport
- Property
- Pedestrians and cyclists
- Cultural heritage
- Water quality
- Noise and vibration
- Flora and fauna
- Medlow Bath Station and pedestrian bridge.

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.

To view more information on the Review of Environmental Factors, including fact sheets and the full Review document, please go to nswroads.work/gwhdconsult

Medlow Bath Upgrade benefits



Safer roads



Reliable access



Improved connections

Pedestrian bridge



New shared pathway

Water quality



Concept Design

The Medlow Bath Upgrade Concept Design has been developed in response to the feedback received during community consultation in 2020. We welcome further feedback on how we can improve the widening of the Highway for Medlow Bath.

Surface upgrade or tunnel?

We are developing upgrade options that are appropriate to each section of the Highway.

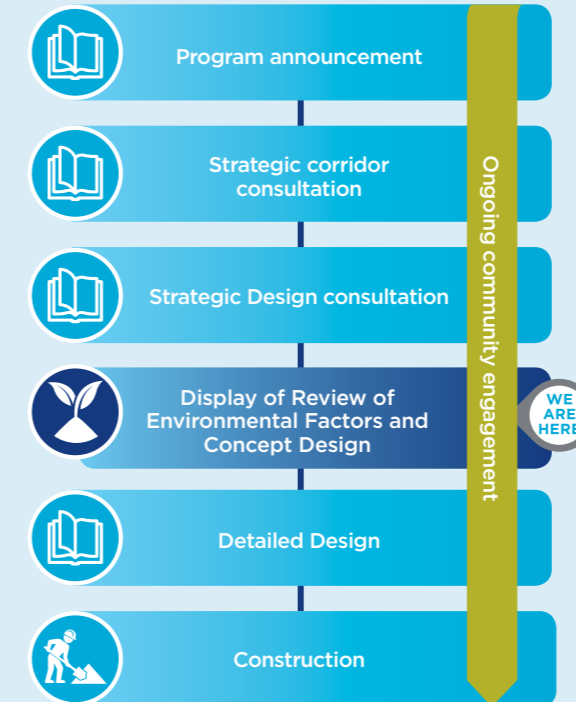
Victoria Pass is the steepest section of highway in NSW, with only one lane access in either direction. In this location, a tunnel offers a more efficient access and gradient for vehicles travelling through the Mountains, especially freight, than any above-ground improvement would provide.

In Blackheath, a number of surface road upgrade options were considered. None of these options could be achieved without significant impacts on the township - either acquisition of a large number of homes, or the removal of any buffer between pedestrians and traffic through town.

In Medlow Bath, we can upgrade the surface road through town, provide a clear buffer between the road and pedestrians, and improve safety for motorists, active transport users and pedestrians with the shared pathway and pedestrian bridge, all with minimal environmental and property impacts.

The impact and cost of tunnelling under Medlow Bath would far outweigh any benefits that a tunnel may provide.

Where are we



Next steps

Transport will use your feedback to continue to refine and improve the design of the Medlow Bath Upgrade.

Construction on the Medlow Bath Upgrade is expected to begin in late 2022.

Katoomba to Lithgow

Between now and the middle of 2022, detailed investigations will take place along the Highway to progress designs for different stages of the Great Western Highway Upgrade between Katoomba to Lithgow.

REFs for the East section (Katoomba to Medlow Bath and Medlow Bath to Blackheath) and West section (Little Hartley to Lithgow) will be available for exhibition and consultation in late 2021.

The Environmental Assessment for the Central section (Blackheath to Little Hartley) will be available for exhibition and consultation mid 2022.

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



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 953 777.



July 2021
21.160


Privacy Transport for NSW ("TNSW") is subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 ("PIPP Act") which requires that we comply with the Information Privacy Principles set out in the PPIP Act. All information in correspondence is collected for the sole purpose of assisting in the delivery of this project. The information received, including names and addresses of respondents, may be published in subsequent documents unless a clear indication is given in the correspondence that all or part of that information is not to be published. Otherwise Transport for NSW will only disclose your personal information, without your consent, if authorised by the law. Your personal information will be held by Transport for NSW at 27 Argyle Street, Parramatta. You have the right to access and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.

Appendix B - Second Community Update

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.
Fold here first


Delivery Address:
PO Box 334
PARKES NSW 2870

No stamp required if posted in Australia
|||




Transport for NSW
Medlow Bath REF
Submission
Reply Paid 91070
PARKES NSW 2870


Fold here second



BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Transport for NSW
Great Western Highway Upgrade Program
Medlow Bath Review of Environmental Factors and Concept Design
Feedback Form | August 2021






An artist's impression of the Great Western Highway upgrade, including the proposed pedestrian bridge accessing the Highway, the Medlow Bath railway station and Railway Parade.

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.

Have Your Say
Transport for NSW (Transport) is now seeking your feedback on the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and Concept Design for the proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade.
We invite you to make a written submission to help us deliver the best upgrade for Medlow Bath.
If you wish to make a postal submission, we have included a submission form which folds down to a reply paid envelope in this community update.

Additional online consultation sessions
We have responded to community requests for additional consultation sessions by scheduling two additional online sessions:
Friday 13 August
12.30-2.00pm
Tuesday 17 August
6.30-8.00pm
Register for our Microsoft Teams live-stream consultation sessions at nswroads.work/gwhdconsult

View the REF and Concept Design
You are invited to view the REF and Concept Design in the Medlow Bath virtual consultation room at nswroads.work/gwhdconsult



- Explore the interactive map of the concept design, zoom in to see details and click on before/after sliders
- Enter our virtual consultation room to view all the information, book a consultation or make your submission
- Download the REF and fact sheets

Inside the virtual consultation room:

- Click and drag with your mouse to move the room around until you find what you are looking for
- Roll the mouse over the icons to find out what they do
- Look for the microphone icon to register for consultation
- Look for the @ icon to make a submission

Speak to us on the phone
If you are not comfortable joining an online session, or do not have reliable internet coverage, we encourage you to call us and organise a phone consultation.
We can arrange to have multiple team members available to take your questions and can link others in your community on to the one phone call.
Please contact us on **1800 953 777** or gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au to book a personal phone consultation.
Face-to-face consultation
As COVID-19 restrictions have been extended, we are unable to offer face-to-face consultation at this time. With no certainty about when COVID-19 restrictions will ease, we cannot postpone consultation on this important part of the Great Western Highway Upgrade.
Consultation will be held online to ensure your safety and comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

How to make a formal submission
To have your input formally considered, and receive a response in the consultation report, you must make a written submission:
You can use our online submission form at nswroads.work/gwhdconsult, email your submission to gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au, or mail a printed submission to: Great Western Highway Upgrade Program Medlow Bath Upgrade REF & Concept Design PO Box 2332, Orange NSW 2800
Alternatively, you can use the reply paid form on the next page to make a postal submission.

Consultation closing date
Please note that the closing date for submissions is now midnight, **25 August 2021**.

Speak to the project team
Join us online
We have already held four online consultation sessions. Two additional sessions are now available on **Friday 13 August** and **Tuesday 17 August**.
Register for our Microsoft Teams live-stream consultation sessions at nswroads.work/gwhdconsult

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

Find us on Facebook
Did you know NSW Roads has its own Facebook page? Follow us by liking 'NSW Roads' on your Facebook profile to ensure you don't miss an update about the Great Western Highway Upgrade.
If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1800 953 777**.

Medlow Bath Review of Environmental Factors and Concept Design feedback form

You are invited to comment on the Review of Environmental Factors and Concept Design for the upgrade of the Great Western Highway in Medlow Bath. If you would like to mail your feedback, please detach this page and use this reply paid feedback form. Submissions close on 25 August

Thank you for contributing your comments. You may wish to provide your contact details below; however, this information is not a requirement to provide feedback.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____ State: _____
Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Privacy Transport for NSW (TfNSW) are collecting information from your submission (including your name, contact details and comments) to use for the purpose of public consultation. We may release reports which outline how community feedback on the project has been considered but will not disclose any personal information provided as part of your submission to those reports. Providing personal information is voluntary. However, we rely on your participation to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information collected and we may not be able to communicate with you directly if you do not provide your personal information. Your personal information will not be disclosed without your consent, except where required by law. Your personal information will be held and managed by Transport for NSW in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1988 (NSW). For further information about how we manage your personal information, please see our Privacy Page at www.transport.nsw.gov.au/about-us/transport-privacy or contact us at privacy@transport.nsw.gov.au.



August 2021
21/92



Appendix C - Newspaper Advertisements



Transport for NSW
Great Western Highway Upgrade Program
Medlow Bath Upgrade

Display of Review of Environmental Factors and Concept Design
26 July - 24 August



Artist's representation of proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade

Speak to the project team

- Wednesday 28 July 1.00-2.30pm
- Tuesday 3 August 6.30-8.00pm
- Saturday 31 July 12.30-2.00pm
- Thursday 5 August 6.30-8.00pm

Consultation will be held online to ensure your safety and comply with COVID-19 restrictions. If restrictions ease we will organise face-to-face consultation if possible.

Find out more

nswroads.work/gwhdconsult
gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au
1800 953 777

Have
your say



Transport for NSW
Great Western Highway Upgrade Program
Medlow Bath Upgrade

Display of Review of Environmental Factors and Concept Design
26 July - 24 August



Artist's representation of proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade

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Consultation will be held online to ensure your safety and comply with COVID-19 restrictions. If restrictions ease we will organise face-to-face consultation.

Find out more


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gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au
1800 953 777

Have
your say



Transport for NSW
Great Western Highway Upgrade Program
Medlow Bath Upgrade

Display of Review of Environmental Factors and Concept Design
26 July - 5 September



Consultation extended!

Find out more

nswroads.work/gwhdconsult @gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au
1800 953 777



Transport for NSW
Great Western Highway Upgrade Program
Medlow Bath Upgrade

Display of Review of Environmental Factors and Concept Design
26 July - 5 September



Consultation extended!

Find out more

nswroads.work/gwhdconsult @gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au
1800 953 777

TRADES & SKILLED WORKERS

UGL is seeking Expressions of Interest for the below positions to join our team on a casual basis for upcoming outage and upgrade work at Mt Piper Power Station, near Lithgow NSW.

- Boilermakers • Pipe Fitters • Pressure Welders
- Mechanical Fitters • Riggers • Scaffolders
- Trade Assistants • Sentries

Successful candidates will be required to pass a medical including drug and alcohol testing.

To apply, please visit: <https://www.ugl.com.au/eng/works-with-us> and select Job Search and enter Mt Piper under keyword.

For enquiries, please email: power.jobs@ugl.com.au
ugl.com.au | energyaustralia.com.au





Transport for NSW
Great Western Highway Upgrade Program
Medlow Bath Upgrade

Display of Review of Environmental Factors and Concept Design
26 July - 5 September



Consultation extended!

Find out more

nswroads.work/gwhdconsult @gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au
1800 953 777

Blue Mountains Food Services Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is a not-for-profit organisation that provides nutritious meals to people in need. We are your local Meals on Wheels provider delivering nutritious meals to your home.

What our clients say: "I've brought me back from the dead. So to please with everything. The food is wonderful!"

"I've eating so much better now and my health is improving. A great service indeed!"

"I cannot praise high enough the volunteers that come to my home each week."

Supported by the Australian Government
25 Livingstone St Lawson NSW 2783
www.meals.org.au

OPEN FOR TAKEAWAY DURING LOCKDOWN!!!

Wednesday - Saturday
11:30am - 5pm

Home delivery available between
Lapstone/Mt Riverview & Katoomba

Springwood - \$5.00
All other areas - \$10.00

RING TODAY TO PRE-ORDER
4751-5159

Fine Dining

Address: 9-11 Marquette Centre (Downing Park Building Area) 123 Marquette Road, Springwood, 2777

Phone: (02) 4751 5159 | Website: www.arrana.com.au

Appendix D – Social Media Posts

27 July – 2 August:



27 July – 2 August:



5–11 August:



27 August – 5 September:



Appendix E – Media Releases



Senator the Hon Marise Payne
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Women
Senator for New South Wales



The Hon Paul Toole MP
NSW Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
Deputy Leader of the NSW Nationals
State Member for Bathurst

Artist's impressions available to download below:

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 27 July 2021

COMMUNITY SHAPES REFINED DESIGN FOR MEDLOW BATH HIGHWAY UPGRADE

Revised designs for upgrades to the Great Western Highway at Medlow Bath have been released, following detailed feedback from the Blue Mountains community.

Liberal Senator for Western Sydney, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, said the broader \$4.53 billion upgrade of the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow would enhance road safety, decrease congestion, and support over 2,500 jobs.

“Completing the duplication of the Great Western Highway west of Katoomba is a major, long-term investment in the Blue Mountains which builds on our government’s track record of improving road infrastructure from Lapstone to Mt Victoria,” Senator Payne said.

“The updated design, which follows community consultation facilitated by Transport for New South Wales, includes installing traffic lights at Bellevue Crescent to provide safer access for vehicles turning on and off the Great Western Highway and will further moderate the speed of vehicles moving through Medlow Bath.

“Importantly, the revised designs include dedicated turning lanes into Bellevue Crescent.”

NSW Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole said Transport for NSW was also seeking community feedback on an alternative option for the intersection, which would include an intersection adjacent to the United Service Station, with a connection to Bellevue Crescent.

“We want to limit the impact on property, so we’re also putting forward a new design that would turn the existing intersection into a cul-de-sac and provide a safe, signalised intersection and U-turn facility for motorists travelling east-bound on the Highway,” Mr Toole said.

“We’ve also heard the community loud and clear on safety and local amenity, which is why we’ve including new landscaping to improve separation between the shared pathway and the highway, and create a better look and feel for Medlow Bath.

“Listening to the community and acting on feedback has been vital in helping us get this right and we will continue to work with the community every step of the way.”

Community members are invited to view the Review of Environmental Factors which outlines the results of a comprehensive assessment of all potential impacts from the upgrade.

Construction is expected to start at Medlow Bath by the end of 2022.

The REF and Concept Design documents are on display until 24 August and can be viewed at nswroads.work/gwhdconsult.

Artist’s impressions available to download here:
<https://spaces.hightail.com/space/mmd5ni0dTV>

Media Contact:

Senator Payne: William Spence – 0438 206 222

Minister Toole: Alex Bernhardt – 0448 203 742



The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Federal Member for New England



The Hon Paul Toole MP
New South Wales Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 27 August 2021

MEDLOW BATH HIGHWAY DESIGN CONSULTATION EXTENDED

Consultation on the Medlow Bath section of the Great Western Highway upgrade has been extended to allow community members more time to provide feedback on the plans.

The consultation was due to close on 24 August but will remain open until 5 September to ensure community members have more of an opportunity to have their say on the upgrade.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Barnaby Joyce said this project is another example of the Federal Liberal and Nationals Government’s determination to deliver for the people of New South Wales.

“The upgrade of the East and West sections of the Great Western Highway, including at Medlow Bath, is about making sure the infrastructure New South Wales needs and deserves is funded and delivered,” the Deputy Prime Minister said.

“The Commonwealth Government’s \$2.03 billion contribution is freeing up funds to assist the New South Wales Government to deliver the broader upgrade of the Great Western Highway in a timely manner.

“This is another example of the Commonwealth’s record \$110 billion infrastructure investment plan in action, helping to connect communities and improve safety, while creating jobs and supporting our economic recovery.”

New South Wales Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole said after listening to the community, the decision was made to extend the consultation.

“We want to make sure every voice in Medlow Bath is heard which is why we’re giving everyone an extra 10 days to have their say,” Mr Toole said.

“A number of printed copies of the full Review of Environmental Factors have been supplied to community members, and that offer is open to anyone who prefers to read a hard copy of the document.

Authorised by the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Tamworth.

“For community members with limited internet connectivity, we are happy to provide copies of the REF as well as other consultation material on a USB and post this to anyone on request.”

The Commonwealth and New South Wales governments understand that responding to the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and concept design is a time-consuming exercise, and it is important to give community members and stakeholders every opportunity to participate.

Some aspects of the design have already been revised following community consultation, including the addition of traffic lights at Bellevue Crescent to provide safer access for vehicles turning on and off the highway and dedicated turning lanes into Bellevue Crescent.

A written update with details of the REF and a map of the proposed design was letterboxed to all addresses in Medlow Bath, supported by a printed reply-paid submissions form.

Community members who do not wish to consult online are invited to contact the project team on 1800 953 777 or at gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au to arrange a phone consultation.

The REF and concept display is available at a virtual consultation room at nswroads.work/gwhdconsult

Artist's impressions available here: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/mmd5ni0dTV>

Media Contact:

Deputy Prime Minister – Antony Perry 0477 971 654

Minister Toole – Ella Smith 0428 745 348

Appendix F – Distribution Zone






Transport for NSW

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors
Flora and fauna fact sheet
July 2021



Exotic tree growth along the Great Western Highway at Medlow Bath (image credit: RPS)

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.

Transport for NSW (Transport) is committed to protecting the flora and fauna of the Blue Mountains by minimising impacts to the natural environment.

The proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade will not impact National Park land. The upgrade design follows the existing corridor using areas of high disturbance in preference to native vegetation, to reduce impacts to flora and fauna.

Transport is 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.



Sydney Peppermint - Silvertop Ash heathy open forest located in Medlow Bath

Biodiversity assessments

Transport has completed extensive biodiversity studies of the proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade corridor.

We conducted background research and habitat assessments to determine the likely occurrence of:

- Threatened and protected terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna species and their habitat
- Threatened ecological communities
- Important habitat for migratory species
- Declared areas of outstanding biodiversity value.

A field survey over five days in December 2020 provided an inventory of land and water flora and fauna including a list of known and potential threatened communities, populations and species listed under the NSW Biodiversity

Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act) and/or the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

One specific plant community - the Sydney Peppermint - Silvertop Ash heathy open forest - was identified on sandstone ridges. This is not a listed threatened ecological community. The remainder of the proposed upgrade corridor consists of highly disturbed roadside areas with mostly exotic grasses, herbs, shrubs and trees.

No threatened flora or fauna species were identified. No areas were classed as key fish habitat and no aquatic species or critical habitat, as listed as threatened under the NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994, were identified.

You will find more information in the Medlow Bath Biodiversity Assessment prepared by RPS for the REF, at nswroads.work/gwhdconsult

Minimising Impacts to flora and fauna

Transport is committed to minimising environmental impacts during construction and delivery of the upgrade. The Medlow Bath Biodiversity Assessment report identifies impacts to biodiversity for both the construction and operational phases of the project and includes mitigation measures where appropriate.

Existing trees and new tree plantings

We know that the trees planted along the Highway are important to local residents. We will do everything possible to relocate these existing trees and will replace any trees that cannot be relocated.

We are committed to planting trees in areas suitable for landscaping and will consult with Blue Mountains City Council on the species to be planted. Trees chosen will be in keeping with the character and heritage of Medlow Bath.

We will also work with Sydney Trains to determine appropriate ways to provide screening for local residents, without compromising on safe clearance below the Sydney Trains 11kv power lines.

When we are building

We are not expecting construction to have a significant impact on threatened biodiversity. We estimate that the Medlow Bath Upgrade will result in the clearing of about 0.36 hectares of native vegetation. The loss of vegetation and habitat will not have a direct impact on threatened species, ecological communities or their habitats in the local area.

Some highly mobile threatened fauna species which use roadside margins for foraging, such as the Gang Gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*), Little Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), Scarlet Robin (*Petroica boodang*) and Varied Sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), may experience a minor impact from the initial loss of vegetation.

Reducing the Impact of our work

We will minimise impacts to the natural environment during construction and operational phases of the project by managing the vegetation clearing process, providing supplementary fauna habitats (such as nest boxes for appropriate species), re-establishing native vegetation, managing weeds, and installing erosion and sediment controls where required.



Transport will provide supplementary fauna habitats for appropriate species

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



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 953 777.

TINSW 21162

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Transport for NSW

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors

Cultural heritage fact sheet

July 2021



Transport is committed to preserving heritage values in Medlow Bath

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.

Transport for NSW (Transport) is committed to preserving the character of Blue Mountains communities and minimising impacts to heritage wherever possible.

No part of the Blue Mountains listed on the *World Heritage List* will be impacted by the Great Western Highway Upgrade Program.

We have carried out extensive investigations to identify and minimise impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and non-Aboriginal heritage items as part of the proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade.

Transport is presenting a Concept Design and a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) 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.



Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage

Transport has conducted extensive Aboriginal cultural heritage investigations along the entire proposed Great Western Highway Upgrade corridor.

The proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade corridor spans three distinct Aboriginal language groups: the Darug, the Gundungurra, and the Wiradjuri peoples.

We did not identify any recorded Aboriginal sites within the proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade corridor.

An archaeological survey* has been completed to assess Aboriginal cultural heritage. This included a Stage 2 Report, which is part of the Procedure for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation and Investigation (PACHCI).

Through the PACHCI, we invited local Aboriginal organisations and advertised for local knowledge owners to take part in an Aboriginal Focus Group and provide nominations for registered Aboriginal parties to act as site officers in field surveys.

Site officers attend all excavations and investigations and can:

- Comment on the potential for Aboriginal cultural material to be present within the proposed route corridor
- Comment on the cultural significance of any Aboriginal cultural heritage sites identified during the survey
- Comment on proposed management recommendations, including recommendations for further assessment.

In accordance with PACHCI, we also asked the Bathurst and Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) to provide advice on Aboriginal cultural heritage issues that may arise as a result of the proposed project.

* Archaeological Survey Report: Great Western Highway Duplication - Katoomba to Lithgow (Jacobs, 2020).
** The Standard Management Procedure - Unexpected Heritage Items (Transport for NSW, 2015).

When we are building

Based on the Stage 2 Report, we do not expect any direct or indirect impacts to items of Aboriginal cultural heritage as a result of the proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade, as no Aboriginal sites were identified within the proposed upgrade corridor.

As the area has undergone extensive landscape modification and high level of disturbance, it is unlikely that the project will impact any previously unidentified culturally sensitive items.

Reducing the impact of our work

If an unknown or potential Aboriginal object is found during construction, we will stop work until we have completed the appropriate procedures for managing unexpected heritage items.**



Vibration will be carefully managed to avoid impacts to heritage structures during construction

Protecting non-Aboriginal heritage

There are a number of non-Aboriginal heritage items listed on the *State Heritage Register* and the *Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2015* along the proposed upgrade corridor, including:

Medlow Bath Railway Station Group: Medlow Bath Station is a representative example of a Federation free style classical railway station. The Medlow Bath Station Group is of state significance as part of the early construction of railway line duplication to the upper Blue Mountains at the beginning of the 1900s.

Hydro Majestic: The Hydro Majestic was developed by Mark Foy and opened on 4 July 1904. The Hydro Majestic is a unique overlay of hotel building styles including the Federation free style architecture of the Casino and Reception buildings and the art deco main wings. It has state significance as a pioneering spa resort with more than a century of use.

Former Post and Telegraph Store: The former Post and Telegraph Office and Store are associated with the Hydro Majestic and are considered an unusual example of a Federation gothic shopfront.

St Luke's Anglican Church: St Luke's Church of England is a representative example of a Federation carpenter gothic church built for a small rural village.

Other heritage items that have been identified in the Medlow Bath township include 'Urunga' Cottage, Melbourne House, Cosy Cot and Sheleagh Cottage, the avenue of Radiata Pines, and the Annis and George Bills horse troughs.

When we are building

We will use pre-condition surveys and vibration monitoring to ensure identified heritage buildings are not impacted by vibration from construction.

We propose to provide hoarding protection and closely monitor the stone fence in front of the Hydro Majestic for any destabilisation as a result of vibration, and will conduct repairs if any damage is identified.

We recognise that the pedestrian bridge will introduce a new aspect to the views to and from several of the heritage items, in particular the Medlow Bath Railway Station Group. However, the bridge will bring many benefits to the town by making it safer to walk and cycle around Medlow Bath, and we are designing the bridge to be as unobtrusive as possible.

We will need to move the concrete bus shelter for the upgrade, and we are seeking feedback from the community and Blue Mountains City Council to determine a suitable location.

Reducing the impact of our work

We will work closely with heritage specialists and stakeholders to minimise the visual impact of the proposal, particularly the pedestrian bridge.

We will also consult with the community to develop a Cultural Interpretation Strategy to identify opportunities to tell local stories and celebrate local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal culture.

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Transport for NSW

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

Medlow Bath Station and pedestrian bridge fact sheet

July 2021



Medlow Bath Station will be upgraded through the NSW Government's Transport Access Program (TAP)
(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.

As part of the upgrade, Transport for NSW (Transport) is improving accessibility at Medlow Bath Station.

This portion of the project is being delivered as part of the Transport Access Program (TAP), a NSW Government initiative to provide a better experience for public transport customers by delivering accessible, modern, secure and integrated transport infrastructure.

The proposed Medlow Bath Station upgrade will provide a station precinct that is accessible to people with a disability or limited mobility, parents or carers with prams, and customers with luggage.

We invite the Medlow Bath community and other interested stakeholders to submit your feedback to the proposal during the Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and Concept Design consultation period from 26 July to 24 August 2021.

Why are we upgrading Medlow Bath station?

The NSW Government is committed to facilitating and encouraging the use of public transport, such as trains, by upgrading stations to make them more accessible, and improving interchanges around stations with other modes of transport such as buses, bikes and cars.

Medlow Bath Station has been identified for an accessibility upgrade as it does not currently meet the key requirements for the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT) or the *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA). The following accessibility issues have been identified and will be addressed in the upgrade:

- the existing paths from the public domain footpaths to the station entries are not currently compliant with DDA standards
- access to platforms is currently via a level crossing and steep ramp or stairs that are not compliant with DDA standards and do not facilitate access for people with reduced mobility, parents/carers with prams or customers with luggage
- existing tactile ground surface indicators on the platform are non-compliant with DDA standards
- there are no existing accessible car parking spaces within the informal commuter car park along Railway Parade.

Objectives of the upgrade

The proposed Medlow Bath Station upgrade will provide safe and equitable access to the platforms and to the pedestrian network surrounding the station. The specific objectives of the upgrade are to:

- provide a station that is accessible to people with a disability or limited mobility, parents or carer with prams, and customers with luggage
- improve customer experience through improved weather protection, interchange facilities and visual appearance
- minimise pedestrian conflict and crowding points
- improve integration with surrounding precinct
- improve customer safety
- improve wayfinding in and around the station
- improve customer amenity
- improve pedestrian access across the rail and road corridor
- improve pedestrian access to Railway Parade and the Great Western Highway.

Benefits



Key features

The key features of the proposed upgrade to the Medlow Bath station precinct are:

- construction of a new pedestrian footbridge including:
 - four new lifts to provide access between the footbridge, bus stops on the Great Western Highway, station platforms and Railway Parade
 - provision of accessible paths between the lifts, stairs and bus stops on the Great Western Highway
- upgrade of the station entrance on Railway Parade including:
 - modifications to the commuter car park along Railway Parade and provision of new accessible parking
 - provision of new accessible kiss-and-ride parking on Railway Parade adjacent to the new station entry
 - provision of accessible paths between the footbridge entry, kiss-and-ride space and accessible parking
- ancillary work including adjustments to lighting, relocation or replacement of existing customer facilities (platform seating, bins, payphone, Opal card readers, fencing) and improvement to station systems including additional closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras, hearing loops and wayfinding signage
- additional work including power and wiring upgrades to ensure reliable supply to the Station.

Why a pedestrian bridge?

The proposed Medlow Bath Station Upgrade removes the railway level crossing and pedestrian refuge in favour of a pedestrian bridge with lifts and stairs. This will improve safety by reducing pedestrians' interactions with vehicles and trains, and provide for accessible public transport.

Transport understands the value the local community places on their walking paths and trails, and recognises the role of the station in growing Medlow Bath's tourism industry.

The pedestrian bridge will help residents and visitors to access the Great Blue Mountains Trail network and allow tourists traveling by train to easily cross the highway to the Hydro Majestic.

We are conscious that the pedestrian bridge will introduce a significant new structure to Medlow Bath. That's why we are proposing a weathered steel truss design with see-through lift shafts that will blend in with, rather than dominate, the existing cultural and aesthetic character of the village.

We will seek your feedback to develop a Cultural Interpretation Strategy to celebrate local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal culture. We would love to hear your ideas of how we can use parts of the pedestrian bridge to help to tell local Medlow Bath stories.



Artist's representation of proposed Medlow Bath Station pedestrian bridge

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Transport for NSW

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors

Noise and vibration fact sheet

July 2021



Noise and vibration mitigation measures will be used to minimise impacts during construction

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.

Transport for NSW (Transport) knows that construction work can be noisy, which is why we will use a range of measures to reduce the impact of our work in Medlow Bath.


We have carried out a thorough noise and vibration assessment examining the potential impact to the community while we upgrade the Highway and afterwards.

This involved identifying areas which may experience changed levels of noise or vibration as a result of the upgrade and how we will manage them.

Transport is 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.

 **Minimised noise and vibration**

Positive noise benefits long-term 

Noise

We have identified residents eligible for individual noise mitigation measures, mainly due to noise from existing traffic flows on the Great Western Highway rather than a result of the project.

We have listened to stakeholders who expressed a preference to avoid noise barriers and we will instead propose individual architectural treatments such as glazing or fencing at affected properties.

Overall, the community will experience positive noise benefits long-term, with a slight decrease in average noise levels once the Great Western Highway Upgrade is complete.

Amenity will also be improved as trains passing through Medlow Bath Station will no longer need to sound their horn to alert pedestrians following completion of the new pedestrian bridge.



Trains will no longer need to sound their horn going through Medlow Bath when the level crossing is replaced by the new pedestrian bridge (image credit: Mott MacDonald)

Vibration

The Medlow Bath Upgrade vibration study found the proposal is unlikely to generate operational vibration impacts on properties and heritage structures.

We will focus on managing and reducing vibration during construction to prevent damage to properties and heritage structures.

We understand people are sensitive to vibration and can feel vibration at very low levels. This is why the vibration criteria we need to meet during our work to avoid annoyance to you is more stringent than the criteria to prevent damage to property. We will ensure our measures are effective in meeting these conditions.

When we are building

We expect a negligible impact on the local noise environment from construction traffic movements.

We will monitor, manage and mitigate noise impacts arising from construction works. As much as possible, we will schedule noise intensive works during standard construction hours.

We will monitor vibration and use appropriate equipment to minimise impacts.

During noise intensive works, we will use all appropriate noise mitigation measures to control the impact for businesses and residents adjacent to the project.

Reducing the Impact of our work

A Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan will be prepared to identify how the project will manage noise and vibration impacts from the planned works.

We will measure vibration while we are working when we are within minimum distances to heritage and other buildings to reduce the potential for cosmetic damage.

We will continue our community consultation activities, in particular engaging with key stakeholders likely to be adversely affected by noise or vibration impacts.

How we measure noise





Noise is measured in decibels. Our ears generally do not notice changes of one to two decibels. We also do not hear incremental changes in noise.

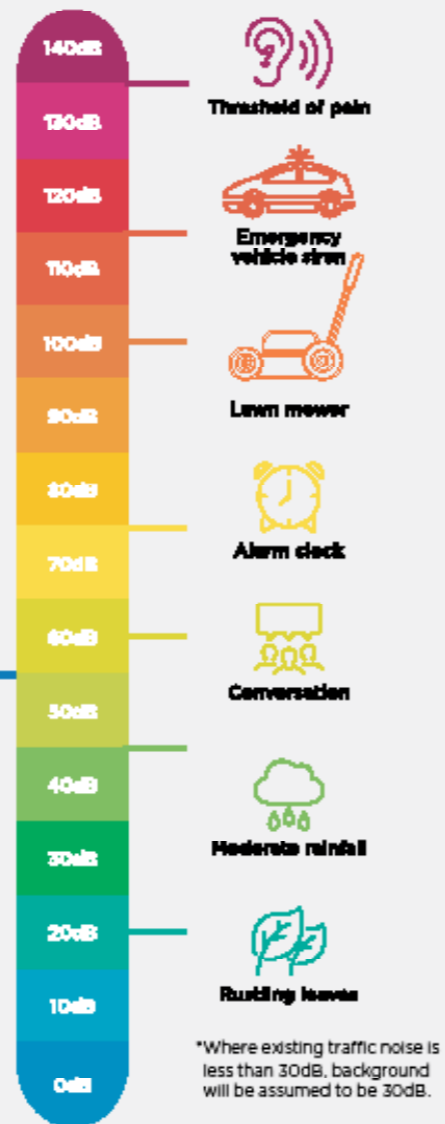
To our ears, a change of 10 decibels sounds either half or double as loud. For example, a motorcycle is about 10 decibels louder than a lawnmower, but sounds around twice as loud.

At Transport, noise is measured, predicted and assessed in accordance with relevant legislative guidelines.

Our assessments are conservative and always assess the worst case scenario. We often find that the actual noise caused by a project is lower than we predicted.

Standard guidelines for noise are:

-  50 decibels at night
 -  55 decibels during the day
- for new **freeways or main roads**
-
-  55 decibels at night
 -  60 decibels during the day
- for upgrades of **existing roads**



Noise assessments

Transport has used noise monitoring data and traffic surveys, a comprehensive noise study, site investigations and noise modelling to predict noise levels arising from the proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade.

Through the noise assessments we identified residences and businesses which are likely to be affected by noise at different stages of construction (site preparation, site establishment, vegetation clearing, roadworks, finishing works).

Our studies found that noise and vibration impacts will reduce in the long-term as the Great Western Highway Upgrade Program moves to completion.

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Transport for NSW

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors

Pedestrians and cyclists fact sheet

July 2021



Pedestrians and cyclists will benefit from a new shared pathway in Medlow Bath (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.

Improvements to road, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure will provide safe access and amenity benefits for Medlow Bath residents.

Pedestrians and cyclists will benefit from the addition of an overhead pedestrian bridge, a shared pedestrian/cyclist path adjacent to the westbound carriageway, and additional pedestrian connections to the station from residential and recreational land.

Transport for NSW (Transport) is 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.

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New shared pathway



Pedestrian bridge



Improved connections

Shared pathway

A shared pedestrian and cyclist path next to the west-bound lane of the Highway will cater for pedestrians and recreational cyclists.

The concept design now provides better separation between the shared pathway and the Highway, with a one-metre vegetated buffer between the path and an additional 1.5 metre shoulder.

This will ensure that pedestrians and cyclists are at least 2.5 metres away from traffic on the Highway. The road shoulder will also provide space for vehicle breakdowns and on-road cyclists.

Transport is committed to providing walking and cycling connections that link to existing trails and path networks in the Blue Mountains. The shared path in Medlow Bath will connect with the existing Great Blue Mountains Trail network between Katoomba and Blackheath.

Pedestrian bridge

The addition of a pedestrian bridge above the Highway and railway will allow us to remove the pedestrian level crossing on the railway line, in line with current safety guidelines across NSW. This will let pedestrians and cyclists safely cross the railway line and the Highway without any interaction with trains or vehicles.

Improved connections

Improved pedestrian connections around Medlow Bath train station will provide increased pedestrian accessibility to the station and promote safe connections between residential, recreational and commercial land in the area.

The pedestrian upgrades will also allow better transitions between modes of transport, safer kiss and ride drop-offs, and traffic calming through landscaping and pedestrian path design.



The railway level crossing and pedestrian refuge on the Highway will be replaced by a new pedestrian bridge (images credit: Mott MacDonald)





Artist's representation of proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade pedestrian bridge

When we are building

We are not expecting walking or cycling to be substantially impacted during construction of the Medlow Bath Upgrade.

Pedestrians and cyclists might experience some short-term changes to access due to diversions or re-routing during construction.

We will make sure walkers and cyclists are able to move around Medlow Bath and that the community can continue to access recreational facilities and historical points of interest in the town.

Reducing the impact of our work

We will divert or re-route pathways during construction to make sure that pedestrian access is maintained at all times.

We will make sure that sites are returned to the same, or better, condition than prior to construction as quickly as possible and we will remove all equipment as soon as we can when construction is complete.

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Transport for NSW

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors

Property fact sheet

July 2021



The proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade minimises residential property impacts

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Transport for NSW (Transport) aims to minimise property impacts wherever possible. The proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade requires the partial acquisition of one private property to accommodate the pedestrian bridge.

We are looking at two options for the Bellevue Crescent intersection to minimise residential property impacts. Some properties may require adjustments to access to ensure safe access to the Highway.

Transport is 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.



Property acquisition

The Medlow Bath concept design requires the partial acquisition of a private property to accommodate the pedestrian bridge.

We know that improving the safety of the Bellevue Crescent intersection is a high priority for the Medlow Bath community, and we are presenting two options for your feedback. The alternate alignment presented for feedback avoids the acquisition of one home in Bellevue Crescent.

Safety, impacts to existing and future access, property impacts, changes to traffic flow and volumes are all important considerations in finalising the concept design.

To build the water quality basin that will collect run-off from the Highway, filter it and release clean water back into the environment, we also propose to acquire Council land next to Medlow Memorial Park. This would require the removal of the current Elsie Langford Centre building.

We will continue to consult with all affected landowners and all property acquisitions would be carried out in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1997* to ensure fair compensation.

Adjustments, access and road levels

Adjustments to residential properties near Bellevue Crescent may be required to provide safe access where retaining walls and driveways are impacted by road widening.

We will work with property owners to find a safer alternative property access and, where possible, will limit private property impacts to only driveway and footpath adjustments.

Concept Design



Alternate alignment



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



Aerial view of Bellevue Avenue, Medlow Bath

When we are building

We expect construction impacts on property to be minimal while we are working on the upgrade.

Property access will be maintained at all times during construction.

We will contact property owners prior to commencing construction work in front of driveways to arrange this work in advance.

Reducing the Impact of our work

We will continue to seek your feedback and will directly consult with affected property owners throughout the design phase. We respect your right to privacy when holding these discussions.

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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.



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.

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Transport for NSW

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors

Urban design and landscaping fact sheet

July 2021



The proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade adopts urban design principles to retain the character and feel of the village

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.

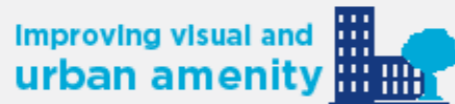
Transport for NSW (Transport) will ensure Medlow Bath, the first built-up area west of Katoomba, retains its heritage and village aesthetic through the upgrade.

We are sensitive to the area's natural and built environment, as well as the value the community places on their village.

We will continue to consult with the community and stakeholders to develop a Cultural Interpretation Strategy to identify opportunities to tell local stories and celebrate local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal culture.

Transport is 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.



Urban design and landscaping features

We have assessed potential impacts of the project on landscape, character and visual amenity for the local community and travellers passing through Medlow Bath. In our design for Medlow Bath, we want to:

- Fit with the high visual qualities and character of Medlow Bath and the Blue Mountains setting.
- Minimise impacts to heritage sites, significant trees and the community's cultural values.
- Create a road corridor that responds to the natural and cultural environment, improves local and regional connectivity and evokes the underlying character of Medlow Bath and the Blue Mountains.

An urban design and landscape plan is being developed which includes:

- Retaining existing tree plantings where possible along the Great Western Highway

- Landscaped median / verges including either:
 - relocation of locally planted trees
 - native shrubs and grasses with taller native trees that respond to the nearby environment
 - ornamental shrubs, groundcover plantings and trees that respond to other cultural aspects of Medlow Bath.

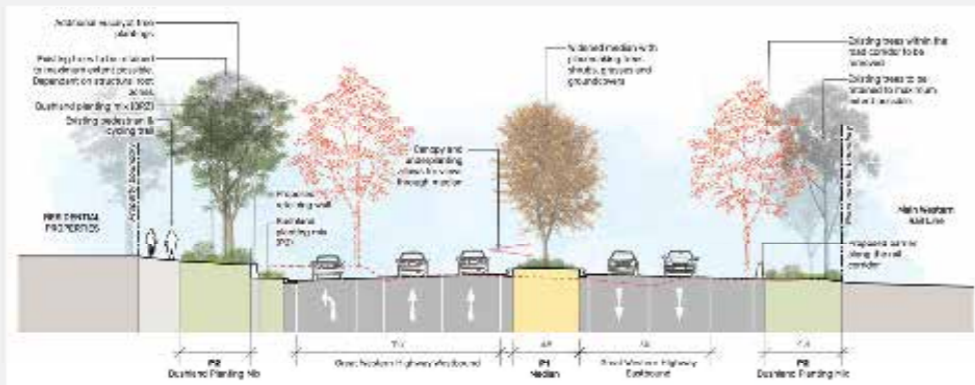
The urban design for the upgrade has been used to improve safety for pedestrians by providing a vegetated buffer between the road shoulder and shared path.

Landscaping is also used to shield highway traffic from head lights of local residents using driveways and shared zones, increasing safety for motorists at night.

We will continue to seek your feedback throughout the project on opportunities to improve the visual and urban amenity of Medlow Bath.



Design features will complement the existing charm of Medlow Bath



Artist's representation of proposed landscaping for the Great Western Highway at Medlow Bath, looking west towards Bellevue Crescent and the Hydro Majestic

Reducing the Impact of our work

We will make sure that the upgrade fits with the plants and vegetation already in Medlow Bath so that we maintain the town's current sense of place. We will remove as little of the existing vegetation as possible and include as much verge area as we can to provide a buffer between the shared path and the Highway.

Where there is a limit to the buffer zones we will consolidate the road and rail corridor as much as possible and, where space permits, we will include street trees and shrubs to improve the look and feel of the town.

For further details, you can see the REF or read the Urban Design, Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment available on the project website.

When we are building

We will identify as many existing trees as we can to be protected and kept within the construction area. Construction will have some impacts along the road, but we will make sure that all of those impacts are renewed, including planting new trees and vegetation beside the road and on the median.

There will be some impacts to how the town looks during construction, as we will need to have a site office, construction traffic and equipment and stored materials along the road corridor.

During construction we will use screens to minimise the visual intrusion of construction facilities. We will remove those screens and rehabilitate the land to its existing condition, or as otherwise agreed with the landowner, as soon as possible when we finish building.

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Transport for NSW

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors

Water quality fact sheet

July 2021



Transport is committed to improving water quality draining into the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment

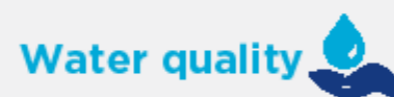
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Transport for NSW (Transport) will improve stormwater drainage and water quality control as part of the Medlow Bath Upgrade.

We are working with Blue Mountains City Council, Water NSW and specialist design teams to develop innovative solutions to improve water quality.

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Protecting water quality

We will build drainage along the Great Western Highway to capture surface water run-off, providing better stormwater management for Medlow Bath, which has minimal existing drainage.

As water draining from the upgrade area flows into the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment, we are committed to improving water quality before it rejoins the downstream catchment.

To protect water quality during construction, we will ensure a comprehensive erosion and sediment control scheme is implemented by the construction contractor, and that run-off meets regulated standards. Water quality will be maintained or improved throughout construction, and we are developing systems that will provide even better water quality post-completion.

We are carrying out geotechnical investigations to determine if there is any potential for contamination of water and if we discover anything we will ensure our design addresses it.

We have developed the concept design to include a comprehensive system of water quality controls in Railway Parade that will improve the management of stormwater flowing into the drinking catchment.

Aquatic assessment

We have assessed the waterways around Medlow Bath and did not identify any threatened ecological communities within the immediate study area.

There is a Temperate Highland Peat Swamp on Sandstone endangered ecological community to the northeast of Medlow Bath, but our studies show it is not likely to be significantly impacted by the Medlow Bath Upgrade. We will take all appropriate measures, guided by expert environmental assessment, to ensure that any potential impact is addressed and mitigated.

Our assessment does not expect the project to have any direct impacts on groundwater dependant ecosystems. We have not found any defined drainages classified as waterway habitat, and we do not expect there to be any direct impacts on aquatic habitat from the upgrade.



Gross pollutant traps like Blue Mountains City Council's best-practice examples will be used in Medlow Bath



Rain gardens like those installed by Blue Mountains City Council will be used to filter stormwater

When we are building

We will use sediment basins, pollutant traps and level spreaders to control the quality and flow of water leaving the Highway. This will minimise the potential for water to leave the road at a high enough volume and speed to impact on the surrounding environment.

When we are operational

The upgrade design will include spill containment structures and we will develop an emergency spill plan to address accidental spills and the leaking of chemicals in transit from entering local waterways.

We will use innovative water quality systems to control the rate, volume and quality of water leaving the Highway to improve the quality of water joining the Sydney Water Catchment Area.

Reducing the Impact of our work

We will minimise ground disturbance and exposed soil to reduce the potential for erosion and blockage of local waterways by:

- using sediment basins, pollutant traps, drainage channels, flow diversion bunds and sediment fencing
- installing rumble grids or wheel wash bays at work entry and exit points
- using fencing, straw bales or sandbags to temporarily stabilise disturbed ground
- replanting exposed areas as soon as possible.

We will use exclusion zones for fill placement and minimise pollution from run-off at our ancillary facilities by storing chemicals in sealed areas. We will restrict vehicle movements to designated pathways as much as possible, stabilise open areas where feasible, and treat run-off before it is discharged into downstream waterways.

We will also identify how stormwater treatment systems and devices installed as part of the project will be maintained, and who will be responsible for that maintenance.

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