

Appin Road upgrade

Project Determination

January 2024



The Appin Road upgrade (Mount Gilead to Ambarvale) project will deliver road safety improvements while protecting local koala and wildlife populations.

Appin Road is a busy state road which caters to thousands of vehicles each day including many trucks carrying freight between Wollongong and Sydney's south-western suburbs.

The NSW Government has approved for Lendlease to fund and deliver the Appin Road upgrade (Mount Gilead to Ambarvale) project as part of a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA).

The area to the east and west of the road is also home to one of the few recovering koala populations in NSW.



Transport for NSW



The work includes:

- widening part of the road from two to four lanes to cater to increased road use
- construction of two new intersections to enable access to the new housing development
- upgrading two existing intersections*
- two koala underpasses** and a rope crossing to provide habitat connectivity
- koala fencing and grids on driveways to prevent koalas from going on the road and reduce vehicle strikes.

Under the VPA, Lendlease is delivering the work in phases. The first phase of construction will see koala fencing, a new intersection to Figtree Hill, and the two koala underpasses.

**Transport for NSW will fund and deliver the St Johns Road intersection upgrade.*

***While the underpasses have been designed for koalas, there is evidence from other projects that these underpasses are also used by Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies and other terrestrial fauna.*

Consultation background

Since the November 2018 exhibition of the original Appin Road Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors (REF), there has been significant effort invested by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, and Campbelltown City Council, to resolve the future planning outcomes for the koala habitat corridors. This includes the need for koala connectivity measures along Appin Road.

The community was then invited to provide feedback on the Addendum REF (A/REF) from Tuesday 22 November until Tuesday 13 December 2022. The A/REF included:

- a northern koala underpass which connects Noorumba Reserve to Glen Lorne Reserve
- an interim southern koala underpass which connects Beulah Biobank to Browns Bush Reserve
- monitoring technology for the koala underpasses to provide information on their use and effectiveness
- koala specific fencing and grids on both sides of Appin Road from Noorumba Reserve to Beulah.

Feedback received

We heard that while you support increasing protection for wildlife, 40 percent of submissions proposed alternatives to the design of the underpasses.

Design suggestions included increasing the size, changing from a pipe to a box culvert, or increasing the number of underpasses. Feedback also raised concerns about whether the A/REF was consistent with expert advice and the robustness of the environmental assessment process.

We heard feedback from community members, organisations, government agencies and businesses.

We'd like to thank everyone who submitted feedback.

Our response

Transport's approach to the environmental assessment considered the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer's reports delivered in 2020 and 2021, and the recommendations regarding koala protection and connectivity.

After receiving community feedback, we revisited the complexities of a number of proposed measures. We worked closely with experts in koala ecology as well as key stakeholders, such as DPE, to ensure our designs meet best practice to preserve the local koala population and minimise vehicle strikes.

As a result, we have decided on changes to the A/REF. Some of the key changes include:

Changing koala underpass designs from pipes to box culverts

Although we have evidence showing koalas use round pipes as small as 1.05m in diameter, there has been more monitoring undertaken around box culverts than pipes and therefore, greater evidence of successful use.

This project will now deliver two larger box culvert underpasses in response to community feedback.

The underpass design changes include:

Location	Original	Current
Noorumba Reserve to Glen Lorne Reserve	2.4m round pipe	3m wide x 2.4m high box culvert
Beulah to Browns Bush Reserve	Two 1.2m round pipes	2.4 m wide x 1.5m high box culvert



Enhancing koala fencing

With the change in underpass design, the alignment of the koala fencing will require changes to better guide koalas toward the entrance of the underpasses. General fauna fencing has been proven to significantly reduce koalas being killed on the road. This project will include koala specific fencing called koala exclusion fencing to keep the marsupials out of the road corridor.

Other changes:

Other changes include design of the koala grids, underpass furniture, vegetation, and the inclusion of koala escape poles.

Underpass furniture includes logs placed along the side of the underpass to provide koalas with an alternative to walking along the ground in case of predators.

Koala grids are made up of bars with gaps which discourages koalas walking on them. They will be placed on driveways and under gates.

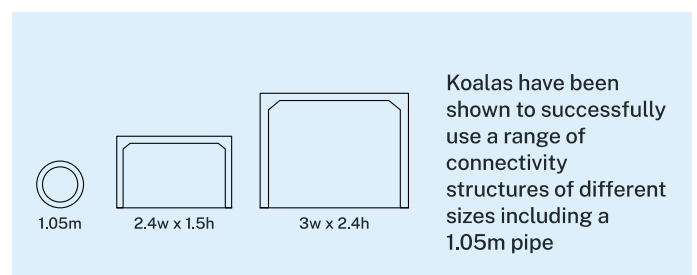
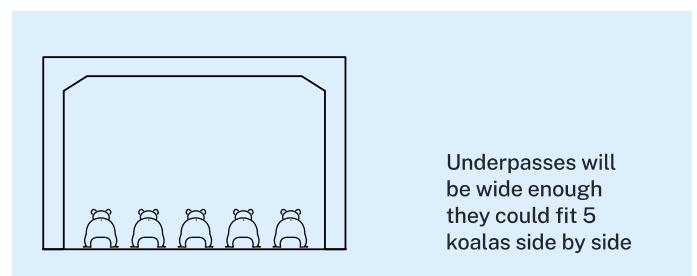
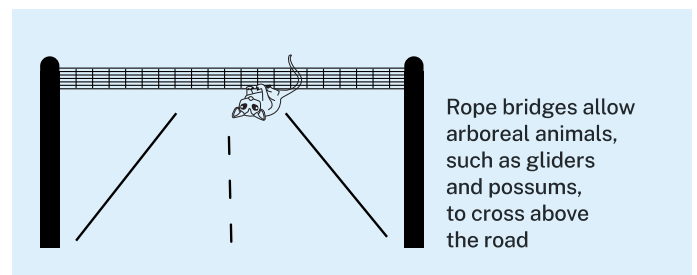
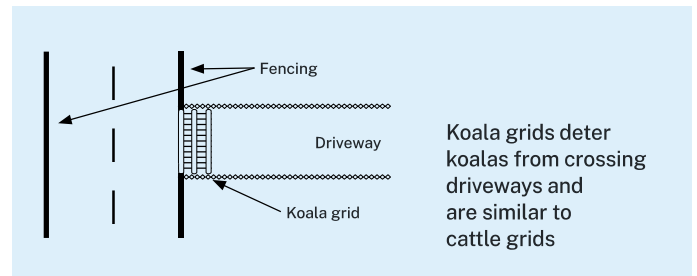
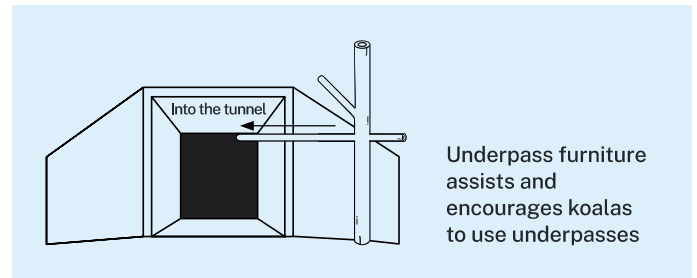
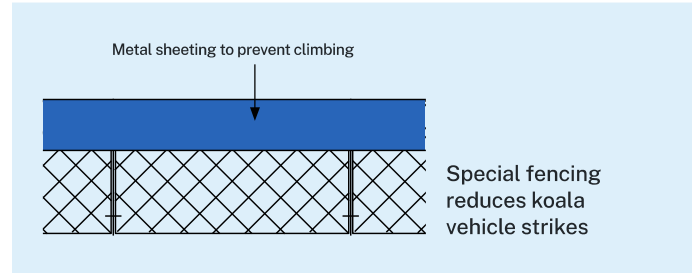
Should koalas still find themselves in the road corridor, there will be escape poles with enhanced furniture and vegetation to guide them over to the other side of the fence.

Next steps

Lendlease will communicate to residents regarding construction activities and timeframes. Priority will be given to the immediate installation of the koala fencing to reduce koala vehicle strikes. This will require removal of trees on either side of the road to give a clear zone. The clear zone is to prevent koalas from using the trees to jump over the fence as well as to ensure the fence can be maintained.

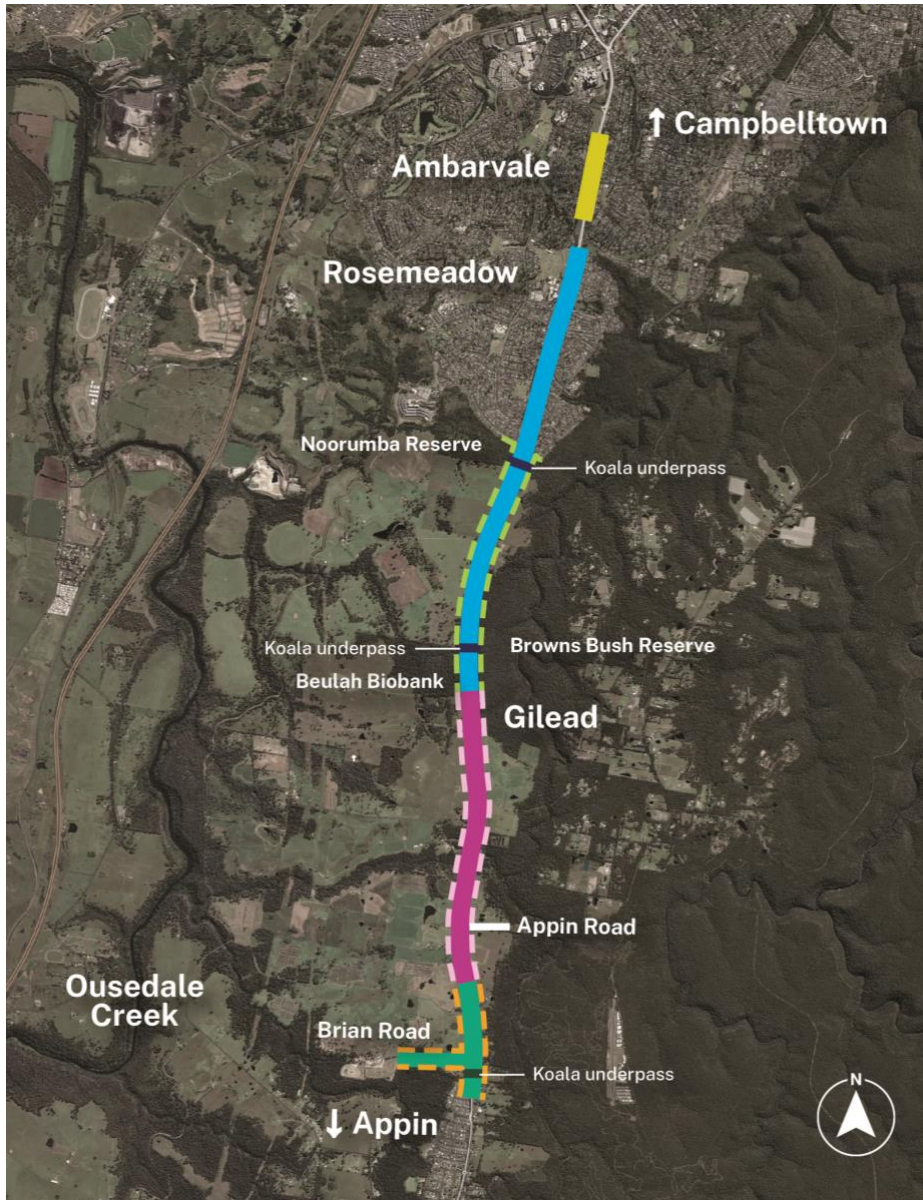
Lendlease will then install the koala underpasses within 12 months of completing the installation of the koala fencing.

Ways we are protecting koalas



Transport for NSW

Other projects in the area



Appin Road Upgrade (Ambarvale to Mount Gilead)

Lendlease is delivering the road upgrade between Rosemeadow and Mount Gilead as part of a Voluntary Planning Agreement. Transport is delivering the St Johns Road intersection upgrade. Further information on the works is discussed in this community update.

Appin Road Safety Improvements

Transport is planning road safety improvements on Appin Road in Gilead, including koala fencing on both sides of the road.

Brian Road Intersection Upgrade

Transport is planning an intersection upgrade, a koala underpass and koala fencing at Appin Road and Brian Road. Transport is assessing community feedback on the recent public exhibition of the Brian Road Intersection Upgrade REF.

KEY

	Appin Road Upgrade (funded and delivered by Transport for NSW)		Appin Road Safety Improvements
	Appin Road Upgrade (funded and delivered by Lendlease as part of a VPA)		Koala fencing – Appin Road Safety Improvements
	Koala underpass – Appin Road Upgrade		Brian Road Intersection Upgrade
	Koala fencing – Appin Road Upgrade		Koala underpass – Brian Road Intersection Upgrade
			Koala fencing – Brian Road Intersection Upgrade

Contact us



Project Infoline **1800 684 490**



projects@transport.nsw.gov.au



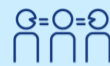
nswroads.work/appin-road-upgrade



Visit the online portal go to Appin Road Upgrade



For the latest traffic updates:
Call 132 701, visit [livetraffic.com](https://www.livetraffic.com) or download the app Live Traffic NSW



Interpreter service

For languages other than English call **131 450**
Bengali • Arabic • Hindi • Filipino • Mandarin

ইংরেজি ছাড়া অন্য ভাষায় দোভাষী পরিষেবা পেতে ১৩১ ৪৫০
নম্বরে কল করুন

طلب خدمة الترجمة الشفهية للغات غير الإنجليزية اتصل
بالرقم **131 450**

अंग्रेज़ी के अतिरिक्त अन्य भाषाओं के लिए दुभाषिया सेवा 131 450
पर कॉल करें

Para sa serbisyo ng interpreter sa ibang mga wika maliban
sa Ingles, tumawag sa **131 450**

获取英语以外的其他语言口译协助服务可以致电**131 450**