

Feedback summary report



Burley Griffin Way at Binalong
safety improvements

May 2024

Acknowledgement of Country

Transport for NSW acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal people and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

Many of the transport routes we use today – from rail lines, to roads, to water crossings – follow the traditional Songlines, trade routes and ceremonial paths in Country that our nation's First Peoples followed for tens of thousands of years.

Transport for NSW is committed to honouring Aboriginal peoples' cultural and spiritual connections to the lands, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

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Introduction

From December 2023 to February 2024, Transport for NSW sought feedback on proposed safety improvements to the Burley Griffin Way intersection with Fitzroy Street in Binalong.

Feedback was invited via email, phone, mail and face-to-face at a drop-in session held at Binalong Community Playground on Thursday 1 February.

This report summarises the feedback received by Transport up to the closing date of Friday 11 February 2023. All feedback received has been read and considered by the project team to assist in completing the final design.

Project overview

Transport is proposing a number of safety improvements to the Burley Griffin Way (Stephens Street) intersection with Fitzroy Street at Binalong.

The project aims to reduce the likelihood and severity of crashes at the intersection by installing safety measures.

The intersection has a high crash rate with four reported crashes from 2015 to 2020. All reported crash types were run-off-road on curves.

In 2022/23, the project was allocated \$1.09 million via the Saving Lives on Country Roads program funding to improve safety at the intersection. The project has been developed in the 2022/23 financial year with delivery expected in the 2023/24 financial year.

Using the recent crash history at this location, we have developed a draft design to improve safety for road users travelling through the intersection.

The proposed design was shared with the community for feedback in a community update published in late 2023.

Feedback received is being used to assist in the final design.

Proposed safety improvements



Road widening

Road widening is proposed at Fitzroy Street and Stephens Street to allow for safer movements through the intersection and for the installation of safety barriers.

Traffic island

Building a concrete median on Fitzroy Street will keep vehicle movements to their correct lane and avoid road users cutting the corner and entering Fitzroy Street on the wrong side of the road.

Closing access to Richmond Street

Transport is proposing to close access to Richmond Street from Stephens Street to accommodate the installation of safety barriers which will protect power poles and private property from run-off-road type crashes.

It would also avoid poor driver behaviour witnessed on Fitzroy Street transferring across following the safety improvements.

Relocating the power pole and installing lighting

A power pole will be relocated further away from the intersection, so it does not remain a roadside hazard.

The power pole will be moved to a new location and lighting will be installed to improve visibility at night.

Installing safety barriers

The design proposes to install a total of 250 metres of safety barriers along the intersection.

These barriers will reduce the risk of run-off-road crashes and will protect private property.

Removing access to heavy vehicles on Fitzroy Street

Transport is proposing to remove heavy vehicle access to Fitzroy Street.

The road is currently not wide enough to accommodate heavy vehicles.

3. Engagement process

From December 2023, Transport sought public feedback on the design of the proposed safety improvements. Due to the holiday period the feedback period was set over two months from Monday 11 December to Sunday 11 February.

Transport held a drop-in session at Binalong inviting the community to meet the project team and provide their feedback face-to-face.

Feedback activities included:

- media release inviting comment
- social media
- project web page
- community update
- doorknocking nearby residents
- drop-in session.

The community was invited to submit their feedback by email, post, phone and face-to-face at the drop-in session.

Following the drop-in session, the project team presented to Yass Valley Council at a closed workshop to provide an overview of the proposed safety improvements and seek their approval on closing access to Richmond Street, a council-managed road.

Concerns were raised over the lack of awareness over the project. A community update was delivered to 480 properties in the Binalong 2584 postcode area, however some community members reported that these updates were not received.

Transport reached out to council and the Binalong Progress Association asking them to share the proposed design with the community via their social pages to ensure residents were aware of the drop-in session.

Transport for NSW

Have your say on Burley Griffin Way at Binalong safety improvements

Community update
December 2023

The NSW Government is upgrading the Burley Griffin Way intersection with Fitzroy Street at Binalong.

What are we doing

Transport for NSW is proposing safety improvements at the intersection of Burley Griffin Way (Stephens Street) and Fitzroy Street at Binalong to reduce the risk and severity of crashes. We are sharing the proposed design with the community for feedback to assist us in the final design.

Proposed design

The proposed design can be viewed over the page and includes:

- road widening at the intersection of Fitzroy and Stephens streets
- relocating the overhead electrical services to accommodate the intersection upgrade
- building a concrete median on Fitzroy Street for safer vehicle movements
- installing 200 metres of safety barriers
- closing access to and from Richmond Street
- removing access to Fitzroy Street for heavy vehicles over 15 tonnes
- upgrading signage including gateway treatments.

Transport for NSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past and present.

Community feedback

We heard the community's concerns with safety at this intersection and are committed to working with Yass Valley Council and the community to provide a safer intersection.

We would like to hear your thoughts on the proposed safety improvements. Feedback can be submitted in person or by contacting us using the details over the page. Feedback closes Sunday 11 February 2024.

Come and chat to us

The project team will be holding a drop-in community information session where you can chat to the team, provide feedback and view the proposed design.

When: Thursday 1 February 2024

Where: Binalong Community Playground, corner of Stephens and Twynan streets

Time: Drop in anytime between 2pm and 5pm

For more information: Call 0407 064 157 or email SouthProjects@transport.nsw.gov.au

Proposed design for Burley Griffin Way intersection with Fitzroy Street, Binalong

Closing access to Richmond Street

Transport is proposing to close access to Richmond Street from Stephens Street to accommodate the installation of safety barriers that will protect power poles and private property from run-off road type crashes.

Closing this access to Richmond Street would improve safety in the area by removing the opportunity for dangerous movements out of the intersection. Moving all vehicles to the Fitzroy Street intersection following its safety upgrades will improve safety for motorists accessing Stephens Street.

Next steps

Following the feedback period, Transport will review all feedback received and use this information to complete the final design.

We will share the final design with the community in coming months and anticipate work to start in mid-2024.

Have your say

Share with us your feedback on the proposed design by contacting us below.

Comments received will assist in the final design and how we deliver the project.

Feedback closes Sunday 11 February 2024.

0407 064 157

SouthProjects@transport.nsw.gov.au

Binalong safety improvements
PO Box 484, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Translation and interpreting service

If you need help understand this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 430 and ask them to call us on 0407 064 157.

Community update sharing the proposed design and inviting feedback.

3.1 Community drop-in session

A community drop-in session was held on Thursday 1 February 2024 at the Binalong Community Playground between 2pm and 5pm.

The drop-in session was attended by members of the project team, over 30 community members, and representatives from Yass Valley Council and the Binalong Progress Association.

The majority of feedback received during the session stated the intersection was not the main issue in the village, rather speeding was their biggest safety concern.

Pictured right: Transport held a community drop-in session on 1 February 2024.



4. Feedback

During the feedback period, five emails and three phone calls were received.

Over 30 attendees submitted feedback face-to-face during the drop-in session.

The standout sentiment across all feedback received was:

- speeding is the main safety issue in Binalong
- opposition to closing access to Richmond Street.

Additional feedback included installing a permanent speed camera, building a right-hand turning lane and reducing the amount of safety barriers installed.

Transport representatives presented to Yass Valley Council at a closed workshop for their endorsement of the proposed safety improvements. This was to gain their approval for closing access to Richmond Street from Burley Griffin Way.

The safety improvements, including the proposed closure, were endorsed at their April 2024 Council meeting.

4.1 Your feedback



Heavy vehicle access

What we heard

We heard removing access to heavy vehicles over 15 tonnes on Fitzroy Street would make it difficult for vehicles supporting the local agricultural industry to safely travel through Binalong.

Alternate access via Queen Street is not possible as the turning angle is not large enough for heavy vehicles.

Accessing Stephens Street from Fitzroy Street is much flatter, and the visibility is greater.

Our response

Transport has taken this feedback into consideration and has carried out investigations into the geometry of Fitzroy Street and Queens Street intersections.

As a result, heavy vehicle restrictions will only be in place for heavy vehicles turning right into Fitzroy Street. Heavy vehicles will be able to continue to travel southbound on Fitzroy Street to allow them to safely enter Burley Griffin Way.



Speeding

What we heard

We heard speeding on Burley Griffin Way through Binalong was the number one concern from the community. Some community members noted there were no safety issues at the intersection.

Our response

To address speeding, we are reducing the speed limit on Burley Griffin Way from 60 km/h to 50 km/h through Binalong.

In addition to the speed zone change, gateway treatments will be installed to clearly show the reduced speed zone change as road users enter the village.



Example of a gateway treatment.



Speed camera installation

What we heard

The community requested a permanent speed camera be installed in Binalong to encourage road users to stick to the speed limit as they travel through the village.

If a permanent speed camera couldn't be installed, another option would be to install speed advisory cameras that would display a smiley face when road users were driving to the correct speed and a sad face when they were speeding.

Our response

Following the community's feedback, Transport has suggested the area as a potential speed camera location with the Centre for Road Safety. Members of the community are welcome to do the same through the nominate a speed camera location portal at www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/nominate-a-speed-camera-location.

Following the installation of the proposed safety improvements the intersection will be regularly monitored.

Meanwhile, we are currently investigating the installation of the 'smiley face' advisory speed cameras.



Closing access to Richmond Street from Burley Griffin Way

What we heard

We heard from members of the community who did not support closing access to Richmond Street from Burley Griffin Way.

Closing the intersection would add further travel time and the nearest intersection would lead road users to an unsealed local road.

We heard some road users turn right into Richmond Street when they do not feel safe turning into Fitzroy Street due to vehicles travelling close behind them.

Closing access to Richmond Street from Burley Griffin Way would require sealing Beckham Street. Further, closing the intersection would not allow heavy vehicles such as garbage trucks to be able to access the street.

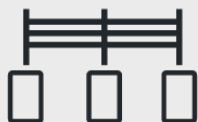
Our response

We are proposing to close access to Richmond Street from Burley Griffin Way to accommodate the installation of safety barriers that will protect power poles and private property from run-off road type crashes.

Closing Richmond Street access would improve safety in the area by removing the opportunity for dangerous movements out of the intersection. It would also avoid the poor driver behaviour witnessed on Fitzroy Street transferring to Richmond Street following the upgrades.

To facilitate the closure, a turnaround bay will be built at the end of the street so heavy vehicles can carry out a U-turn.

Following the Richmond Street access changes, we recommend road users enter and exit via Twynham Street instead of Beckham Street as it is a wider road with better sight distance. Road users travelling via Twynham Street will add an additional two minutes to journeys.



Flexible safety barriers

What we heard

We heard the community request the length of safety barriers be reduced to ensure Richmond Street access from Burley Griffin Way would be maintained.

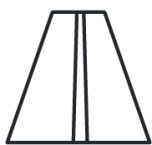
Our response

Flexible safety barriers are designed to absorb impact forces reducing the energy transferred to vehicle occupants when a crash occurs.

Flexible safety barriers are required to be installed in longer lengths to ensure they can absorb the impacts of any vehicle.

If installed for a shorter length or on a tight curve, they would not be able to absorb the impact of the crash and could potentially add further injury to the occupants of the vehicle.

Installing safety barriers would address the run-off-road crashes that have been recorded at this location.



Concrete median on Fitzroy Street

What we heard

We heard the community felt the concrete median was not required and would not offer any additional safety improvements to the intersection.

The traffic island would also make it difficult for heavy vehicles turning in and out of Fitzroy Street due to the wide turning path they require.

Our response

Installing a concrete median would stop road users from crossing over onto the wrong side of the road when entering Fitzroy Street from Burley Griffin Way.

It would also reduce the risk of a head-on crash which could potentially happen with a vehicle travelling from the other direction.



Dedicated turn lane

What we heard

We heard the community ask for a dedicated right-hand turn on the eastbound lane of Burley Griffin Way.

Road users don't feel safe turning right into Fitzroy Street due to vehicles speeding behind them.

Building a dedicated right-hand turn would allow vehicles to safely turn right into Fitzroy Street and reduce the risk of rear-end crashes.

Our response

Building a dedicated right-turn lane would require private land acquisition to provide an area large enough to widen the road.

Major work would be required due to the location of underground utilities at this location. This would be at an additional cost and cause further time delays.

When we reviewed the crash history at this location, the installation of a right-hand turn lane would not have prevented the recorded crashes.



Double lines

What we heard

The community told us they believed unsafe overtaking was taking place on Burley Griffin Way through the village. They proposed installing double lines to make this movement illegal.

Our response

We have investigated this as part of the design and we will be installing double lines through the village between Monteagle and Fitzroy streets.

Residents will be able to cross the double lanes to turn into their driveways as per NSW road rules.



Heavy vehicle bypass

What we heard

We heard the community request a truck bypass for Binalong. A suggestion included sealing Grogans Road to allow it to line up with Henderson Lane.

Following this work, a load limit could be put in place on Fitzroy Street.

Our response

A heavy vehicle bypass is outside the project scope.

Building a bypass would need to be considered as part of a long-term traffic strategy in consultation with Yass Valley Council

5. Next steps

Transport is using the feedback received from the community and stakeholders to refine the design and will share the final design with the community shortly.

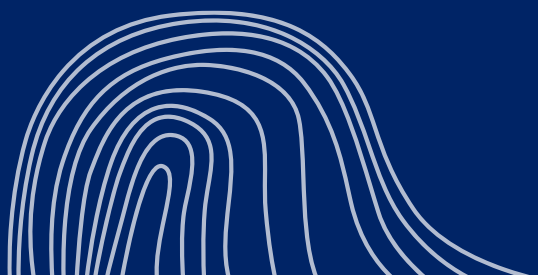
We anticipate work to start on relocating the power pole in coming months.

Next steps are included in the project timeline below.

We thank the community for taking the time to respond and will continue to keep them updated as the project progresses.

5.1 Project timeline





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