

New Heathcote Road upgrades

Have Your Say on Koala protection measures at Deadmans Creek

Plans to widen Heathcote Road between Princes Highway
and New Illawarra Road

November 2024



Koalas have been recorded crossing underneath Heathcote Road using the existing drainage culvert, north of Deadmans Creek Bridge



Transport for NSW (Transport) is progressing two key projects on Heathcote Road, koala protection measures around Deadmans Creek and an overtaking lane between the Princes Highway and New Illawarra Road



Location of proposed koala protection measures



KEY

Proposed koala protection		Existing features	
 New koala fencing assessed under this REF	 Koala crossing location	 Existing rock slope	 Waterway
 Koala fencing assessed under separate EIS	 Koala grid	 Existing Defence fencing	 Deadmans Creek Bridge
 Project area	 One-way escape structure	 Defence land	 Two-way fauna access pipes
	 Refuge pole	 National Park estate	

Transport is progressing two key projects on Heathcote Road

We are developing designs to widen a section of the road to extend the westbound overtaking lane approaching New Illawarra Road to allow traffic to safely overtake slower vehicles.

This is part of a \$180 million NSW Government commitment to improve Heathcote Road between New Illawarra Road and Princes Highway.

The key benefits to the community of the upgrade include:

- increased road safety
- improved road network reliability allowing safe passing of broken-down vehicles
- decrease in traffic delays.

Transport is now understanding the landscape at the location of the new overtaking lane so we can prepare designs. You may see us out and about in the next few months as we conduct site investigations. We plan to consult the community in the first half of 2025 on a reference design for the overtaking lane.

We are also sharing details of a proposal to protect the koala population around Heathcote Road, particularly near Deadmans Creek.

To encourage koalas to travel away from the road and avoid passing vehicles, or only cross at safe locations, fencing is proposed along Heathcote Road which would result in continuous koala protection from Pleasure Point Road to south of St George Crescent.

We are also proposing installing one-way escape structures and improving fauna access under Deadmans Creek Bridge.

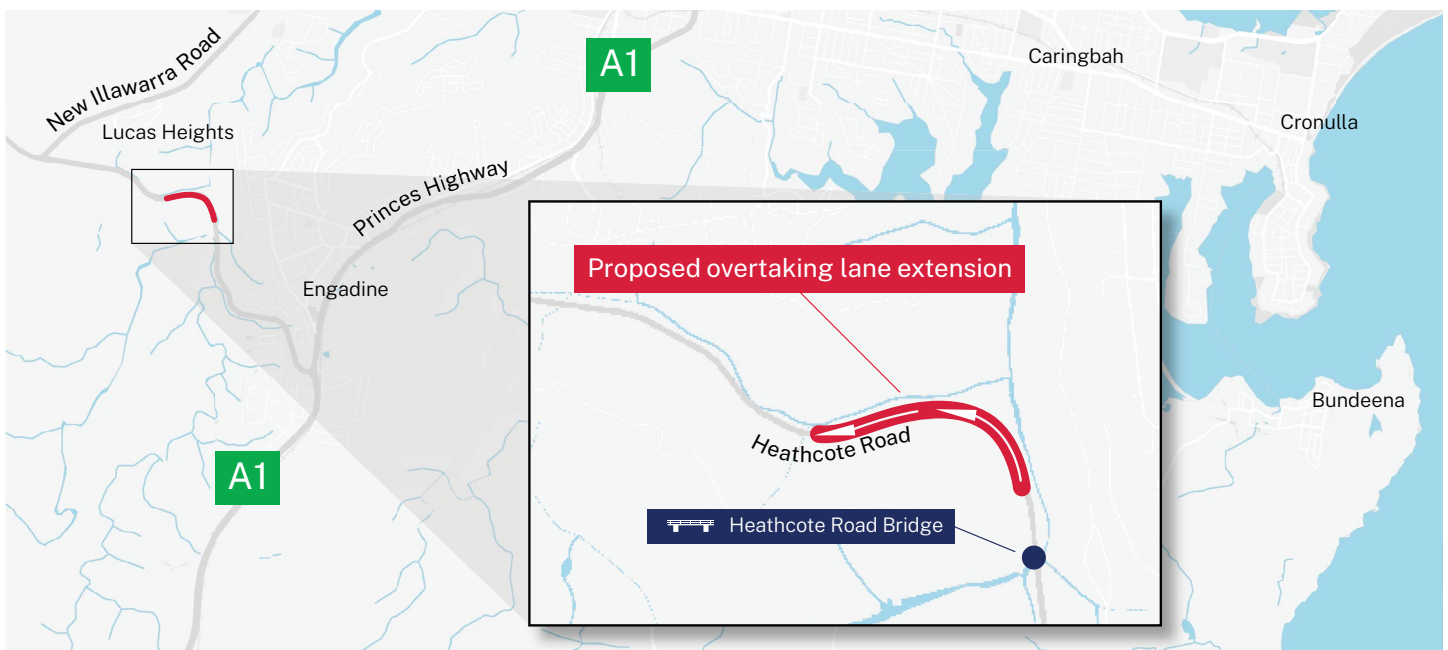
A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) has been prepared and the community and stakeholders are invited to provide feedback by **23:59pm Friday 13 December 2024**.

Environmental Impact Statement

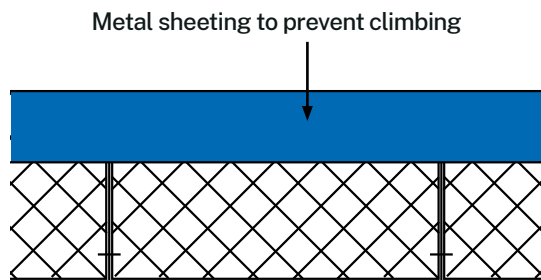
The construction of the Koala Fencing also impacts land classified as coastal wetlands, under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021. Under the State planning rules an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared when projects impact coastal wetlands. Transport have prepared an EIS which will be assessed and displayed by Liverpool City Council.

For more information on this and to provide feedback on the EIS, please view the council webpage at liverpool.nsw.gov.au

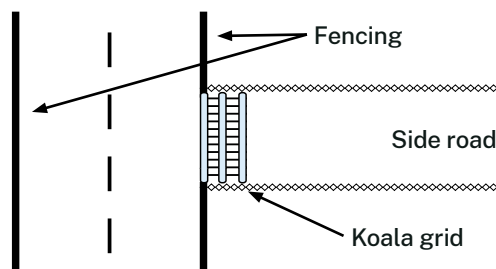
Map showing Heathcote Road overtaking lane



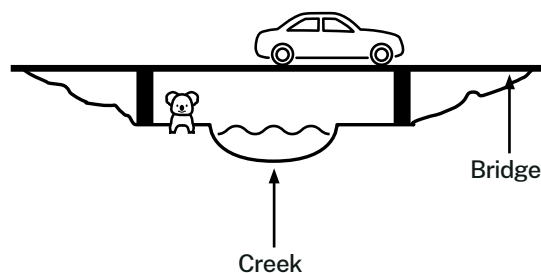
What koala protection measures are planned?



Installation of special fencing reduces koala vehicle strikes



Koala grids deter koalas from entering the road corridor at fence ends and are similar to cattle grids



Bridges and culverts provide opportunities for koalas to safely cross underneath the road

Koala fencing

Delivering continuous koala vehicle strike mitigation from Pleasure Point Road to south of St George Crescent, with over one kilometre of new koala fencing standing 1.5 metres high, with non climbable sheeting.

New fencing will connect with safe fauna crossing points, existing drainage culverts, Deadmans Creek Bridge; and Department of Defence fencing.

Koala grid

Installing a koala grid with pedestrian gate access on St George Crescent.

Fauna access

Installing one-way escape structures in the fence to allow koalas to get out of the road corridor if they become trapped.

Improving fauna access under Deadmans Creek Bridge including ground surface treatments and installation of refuge poles.

Vegetation removal

Selectively clearing up to three metres of vegetation on each side of the koala fencing, as required, for construction and to remove opportunities for koalas to climb the fencing.

Access improvement

Providing gates in the fence for emergency and maintenance access.

NSW Koala Protection



Adult koala (Phascolarctos cinereus). Image courtesy of NSW Environment and Heritage Group.

In NSW, vehicle strike is regarded as a key threat to koalas (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 2020), and is one of the most frequently reported causes of injury and death for koalas brought into care by wildlife rehabilitation groups.

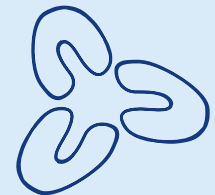
Transport is working with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to address koala vehicle strike along a one-kilometre section of Heathcote Road around Deadmans Creek, as part of the NSW Koala Strategy.

For more information visit: www2.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/nsw-koala-country

Included in the
assessment of the Review
of Environmental Factors



Biodiversity impacts



Aboriginal and
non-Aboriginal
heritage impacts



Traffic, noise, vibration
and visual impacts.



For more information, please scan the QR code or visit:
transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/deadmans-creek-koala-fencing-on-heathcote-road

Next steps

At the end of the REF display period, a submissions report which summarises feedback received for the project and responses will be published on the project website.

We will keep the community and stakeholders informed of the project's progress. You can access information on the project through the website.

How to provide feedback

Email koalaprotectionheathcoteroad@transport.nsw.gov.au

Call 1800 684 490

Write to Heathcote Road Koala Protection Project
Transport for NSW, 4 Parramatta Square,
12 Darcy Street, Parramatta, NSW, 2150

NSW Government HYS website: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say/koala-protection-on-heathcote-road>

Submissions must be received by: **23:59pm Friday 13 December, 2024.**

Community Information Session

Transport will host a community information session to provide an opportunity to ask questions about the project and seek further information.

A formal presentation will not be given so please feel free to drop in any time during the session at:

**Sandy Point Community Centre,
200 St George Cres, Sandy Point NSW 2172,
Saturday 7 December, 2024 between
11:00am – 1:30pm.**

Have Your Say

The Review of Environmental Factors (REF) is now on display until **23:59 Friday 13 December, 2024.**

We invite you to provide feedback during this consultation phase. Please see the contact details below and send your comments and questions through by phone, post, email or via the Have Your Say survey.

The REF documents are available on the project webpage or you can view printed versions at the following locations:

Liverpool City Council

Yellamundie, Lower Ground Floor,
52 Scott Street, Liverpool, NSW 2170

Sutherland Shire Council

4-20 Eton Street, Sutherland, NSW 2232



Contact us

For enquiries, complaints, feedback and to subscribe to our mailing list use the contact details below.



Project Infoline **1800 684 490**

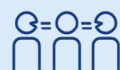


koalaprotectionheathcoteroad@transport.nsw.gov.au



Scan the QR code or go to
**[transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/
current-projects/deadmans-creek-
koala-fencing-on-heathcote-road](https://transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/deadmans-creek-koala-fencing-on-heathcote-road)**

www.transport.nsw.gov.au/privacy-statement#Your_Privacy



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