



Frequently Asked Questions

The Dust Bowl

February 2024



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

What are the changes to the Dust Bowl?

To improve motorway safety and complete Stage 1 of the new Spring Farm Parkway, we are planning to adjust the informal rest area known as the 'Dust Bowl'. Space will be retained for Oversize Overmass (OSOM) vehicles.

The changes to the Dust Bowl mean that heavy and light vehicles will no longer be able to use the Dust Bowl as a rest stop and will need to use an alternate location.

What are alternative form rest area site locations for heavy vehicles?

We need to limit the Dust Bowl use to improve motorway safety and unlike OSOM vehicles, light and heavy vehicles have multiple alternative resting areas.

While the Dust Bowl will continue to accommodate OSOM vehicles, both light and heavy vehicles will be redirected to alternative rest areas.

Alternative rest area locations include:

- **Eastern Creek rest area** – located 37 kilometres north of Campbelltown, 28 minutes away from the Dust Bowl site. The rest area caters for light and heavy vehicles and has toilet facilities and services.
- **Pheasants Nest rest area** – located 25 kilometres south of Campbelltown, 15 minutes away from the Dust Bowl site. The rest area has been recently upgraded with significant capacity for light, heavy and OSOM vehicles up to 5 metres wide. It has toilets, shower facilities and services.
- **Sutton Forest rest area** – located 82 kilometres south of Campbelltown, 53 minutes away from the Dust Bowl site. The rest area caters for light, heavy and OSOM vehicles and has toilet and shower facilities, restaurants, and services.
- **Mt Ousley rest area** – located 47 kilometres west of Campbelltown, 32 minutes away from the Dust Bowl site. The rest area caters for light, heavy and OSOM vehicles and has toilet facilities.
- **Picton Road rest area** – located 30 kilometres west of Campbelltown, 20 minutes away from the Dust Bowl site. The rest area caters for light and heavy vehicles with limited access to OSOM

vehicles and has toilet facilities.

For further information on alternative rest area sites visit [Rest areas map \(NSW\) - Transport for NSW](#) or refer to map on our website

Is Transport taking into consideration rest stop opportunities for Oversize Overmass (OSOM) vehicles?

Transport is considering the needs of OSOM vehicles to help inform the prioritisation and capacity needs of the rest stop improvements in NSW. We will update road freight operators as more information becomes available and will work with the freight industry to develop appropriate alternative solutions.

What work is currently underway or planned to improve the number and quality of heavy vehicle rest stops?

As a priority of the NSW Government, Transport is working to improve the quantity and quality of heavy vehicle rest stops in NSW in collaboration with the road freight industry.

Several projects are underway across the investigation planning, design, and delivery phases for rest stop improvements.

Industry feedback is guiding this work to ensure it meets the current and future needs of heavy vehicle drivers and the growing freight task. Transport has undertaken focused engagement with the road freight industry between November 2022 and March 2023. The resulting feedback is contained within the Heavy Vehicle Rest Stop Stakeholder Engagement Report published in September 2023. The report is available online: <https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/heavy-vehicle-rest-stops>.

Transport is working to improve heavy vehicle rest stopping across both regional NSW and Greater Sydney to support driver wellbeing and assist drivers to comply with fatigue management regulations, these initiatives are summarised below.

Heavy Vehicle Rest Stop Improvement Program

In regional NSW, Transport is developing a Heavy Vehicle Rest Stop Improvement Program to improve the heavy vehicle rest stopping across the regional State Road Network. The program is informed by an audit of existing formal heavy vehicle rest stops against the Austroads Guidelines for the Provision of Heavy Vehicle Rest Area Facilities and is included on the Infrastructure Priority List. For more information visit <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/map/nsw-heavy-vehicle-rest-stops-provision>

Greater Sydney

Transport is completing a review of heavy vehicle rest stops in Greater Sydney to identify opportunities on the State Road Network. This audit will guide future planning, investment and prioritisation for improvements within the Greater Sydney area.

Work is also underway on a proposed Western Sydney Heavy Vehicle Rest Area. Industry engagement closed mid-October 2023 and is being analysed to inform the scope of the proposed rest area.

Highway Service Centre Partnerships

Transport has entered commercial partnerships with industry to develop highway service centres on land owned by Transport. Some of these developments include heavy vehicle parking bays and shower and toilet amenities.

New highway service centres have opened along the Pacific Highway at Nambucca Heads and Ballina. Development and delivery of significant upgrades to Highway Service Centres are currently underway at Pheasants Nest and Eastern Creek M4 Motorway.

Heavy Vehicle Rest Stop Improvement Projects

There are a number of rest area improvement projects in planning or underway across the State including:

- Western Sydney Heavy Vehicle Rest Area proposal
- Mundoonan Rest Area expansion, Jerrawa
- Barton Highway rest area replacement, Murrumbateman
- Newell Highway: Heavy Duty Pavement Upgrade – Narrabri to Moree

For more information about heavy vehicle rest stopping improvement please visit transport.nsw.gov.au/hvrsimprovements

