

About the project

We are investigating improvements to the transport network in Wagga Wagga with a focus on the Olympic Highway and Sturt Highway corridors, and areas of industrial and residential growth in the north of Wagga Wagga. The Wagga Wagga Northern Access Strategy will inform planning for a more efficient future transport network which meets the needs of road users and the community. This forms part of our long-term commitment to provide safe, efficient and reliable journeys through Wagga Wagga.

What is the study area?

The study area is the Olympic Highway and Sturt Highway corridors through Wagga Wagga, including the CBD and predicted areas of industrial and residential growth in the north of Wagga Wagga.

What is the focus of the investigation?

The strategy will concentrate on the transport network connecting Wagga Wagga with a focus on the Sturt Highway and Olympic Highway corridors, including major intersections on both corridors. This focus includes road safety and network efficiency, active transport connectivity, on-street parking, congestion and delays in peak periods, public transport availability, environment, property access, freight movement and the future transport needs of road users and the community. It will also consider network vulnerability and potential impacts during natural disasters and working with other State government agencies and local councils, so Transport for NSW can enhance its preparedness into the future.

The investigation aims to identify options to:

- reduce travel times

- reduce congestion
- improve road safety
- address network vulnerability
- improve active travel connectivity
- guide future transport planning decisions.

How will the strategy benefit the community?

Key benefits to the community include:

- supporting economic growth and future transport needs in and around Wagga Wagga
- improving safety
- delivering a high performing, well integrated and efficient transport network
- improving accessibility to transport infrastructure and services for all community members
- providing a more reliable journey and better-connected transport services through Wagga Wagga.

Why is the community being consulted?

We will continue to consult with the community to get their feedback to help inform our planning. We are committed to working with the community to help guide us on how we can continue to plan and investigate improvements to the transport network.

Transport carried out extensive consultation with the community between 2019 and 2022 as part of the Olympic Highway intersection upgrades project. Much of this early consultation work is relevant to the proposed future investigations and will be reconsidered during planning.

This new strategy will build on work already done and use more detailed data collection and modelling to investigate concepts and initiatives identified in the earlier studies.

How will Transport consider improvements to connections for cyclists and pedestrians?

We work closely with Wagga Wagga City Council and key stakeholders and are considering opportunities to encourage active travel in the area. Active travel has the potential to help reduce demand for car trips.

Will the strategy include potential for a northern bypass?

The strategy will investigate transport and freight connectivity improvements for the northern suburbs of Wagga Wagga. This will include investigating the potential for a heavy vehicle bypass

along a new northern link road connecting the Olympic Highway to the Sturt Highway east of Wagga Wagga.

Will the strategy incorporate feedback about the Inland Rail route?

The strategy will not incorporate feedback about the Inland Rail route. The Inland Rail project is a major infrastructure project which is being managed by a separate entity, Inland Rail Pty Ltd, which is a subsidiary company of Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC).

How will the strategy inform development of the Riverina Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan?

Our broader Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan (SRITP) for the Riverina-Murray is set to be delivered in early 2026. The SRITP will help shape the future of transport in our region over a 20-year horizon. Data received from the Wagga Wagga Northern Access Strategy will be considered as part of the SRITP.

What happened to the Olympic Highway intersection upgrades at Old Narrandera Road and Travers Street?

A \$30 million roads package was announced by the former NSW Government in August 2018. The intent was to fund the widening of Marshalls Creek Bridge on the Sturt Highway and upgrade the Old Narrandera Road and Travers Street intersections on the Olympic Highway.

Due to the rising costs of construction, all three projects could not be funded under this commitment. The Olympic Highway intersection upgrades were put on hold and plans for the projects are ready to progress when funding becomes available.

These intersection upgrades represent medium term improvements which could be implemented by Transport to address emerging traffic congestion issues around Gobbagombalin Bridge.

Are other intersections along the Sturt and Olympic highways being upgraded?

The strategy's investigations will consider improvements required at major intersections along the State road corridors.

Is the Gobbagombalin Bridge going to be duplicated?

The 2021 Wagga Wagga Transport Plan (WWTP) recognised there is potential for rapid growth in traffic volumes between the northern suburbs of Wagga Wagga and the CBD, due to future

residential development in existing areas and the Northern Growth Area as well as traffic associated with the Bomen industrial precinct.

The WWTP recommended a number of initiatives. The strategy's investigations will cover some of these initiatives, including both medium and longer term solutions.

They will consider both service and infrastructure solutions and provide clarity on when solutions need to be delivered.

Is another Murrumbidgee River crossing into northern Wagga Wagga being considered?

The strategy will include investigating the potential for another crossing of the Murrumbidgee River at an alternative location to the Gobbagombalin Bridge.

How will Transport consider improvements to connections for cyclists and pedestrians?

We will work with Wagga Wagga City Council and key stakeholders to consider opportunities to encourage active travel in the area. Active travel has the potential to help reduce demand for car trips.

What happens next?

After the consultation period, we will carefully consider all feedback. A community consultation report will be prepared, summarising matters raised. This will be made available on our website.

Your feedback will inform the planning of future improvements to the Wagga Wagga road network. We will keep you updated as planning progresses.

How do we find out more?

For more information, contact the Wagga Wagga Northern Access Strategy team, SouthProjects@transport.nsw.gov.au or mail PO Box 484 Wagga Wagga NSW 2650.

More information is also available on our website at <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/wagga-wagga-northern-access-study>