

Bruxner Highway intersection with Cowlong and Alphadale roads

Have Your Say

Project update | November 2024



The intersection of Bruxner Highway and Cowlong and Alphadale roads

The Bruxner Highway is located in Northern NSW and provides a key connection between Lismore and Ballina, linking with the Pacific Highway. The NSW Government is investing \$7.5 million to fund the construction of a Cowlong and Alphadale crossroads intersection upgrade. We are now seeking your feedback on the vital road safety improvements this upgrade will deliver for the community.



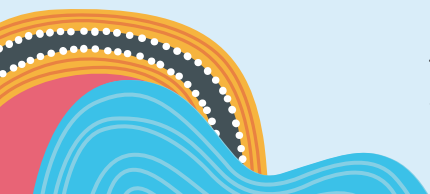
Safer and more reliable journeys for the local community

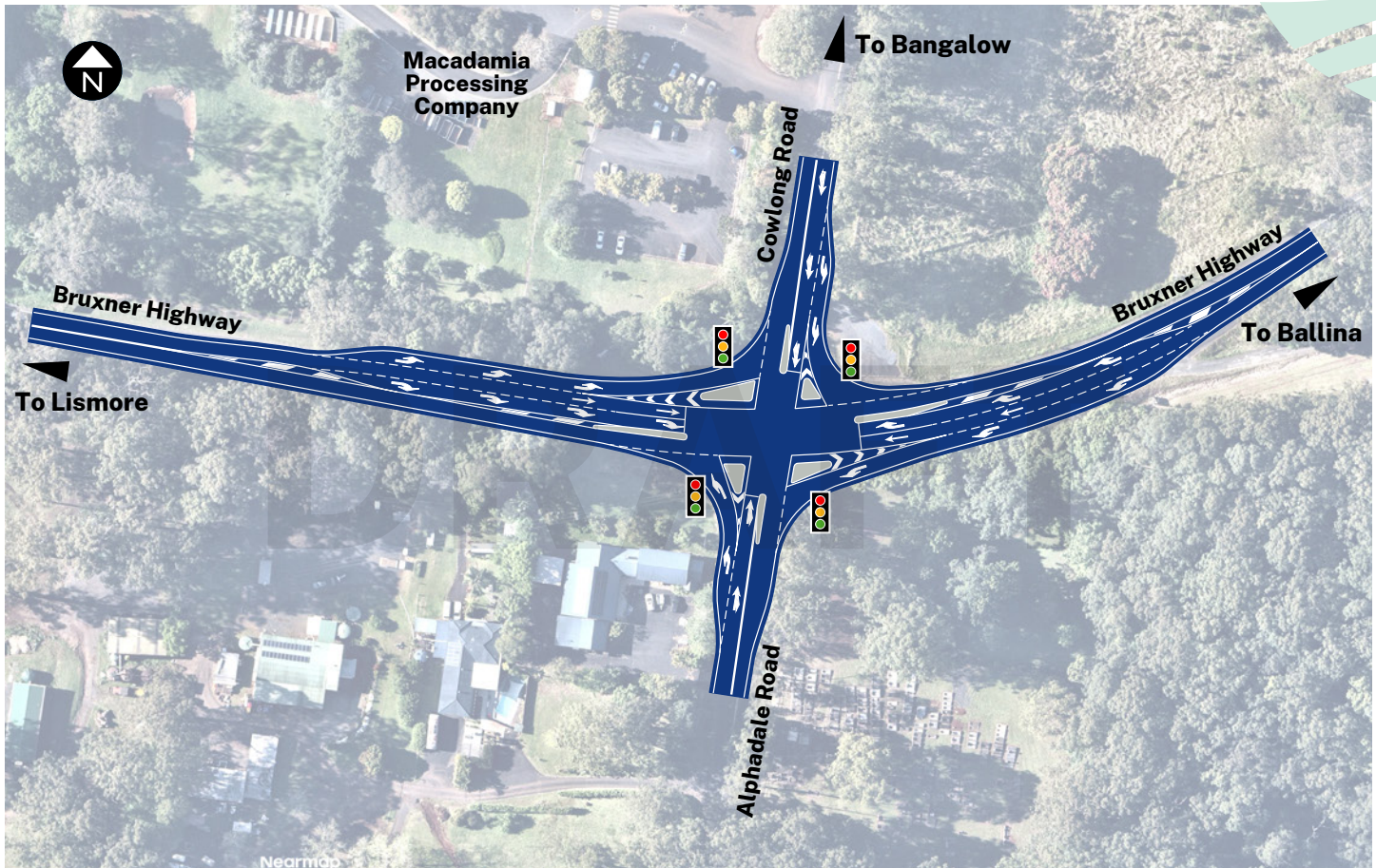
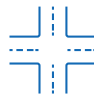


Improved traffic flow and reliable road access to and from the Bruxner Highway



We are seeking your feedback on road safety improvements





Preferred Option

Based on our investigations to enable safer access to Cowlong and Alphadale roads, as well as ensure safety and efficiency of through traffic movement along the Bruxner Highway, our preferred option is to install traffic lights at this intersection. Reasons for this preferred option include:

- Traffic lights carry little to no risk of truck roll overs, however due to the existing topography of the site a new roundabout would likely have a slight gradient and this could potentially increase risk of truck rollovers.
- This issue is worsened by the number of heavy vehicles utilising the intersection to access the macadamia processing plant.
- The proposed traffic lights at this intersection will mostly sit within the road reserve, reducing the project's footprint and reducing the need for surrounding property acquisition.
- A smaller footprint will result in less earthwork.
- The installation of traffic lights will require fewer traffic changes and disruptions for motorists during construction.
- Traffic lights at this intersection align with the Bruxner Highway longer-term corridor improvements.
- Traffic lights are considered the desirable long term treatment at Oliver Avenue which is 1.5km to the west of this proposed intersection upgrade. Signals will meet future residential development needs, providing a consistent urban arterial along the Bruxner Highway corridor.
- To improve the overall connectivity between Lismore and Ballina, traffic lights will enhance safety and streamline traffic flow along the Bruxner Highway corridor.

Background



The Bruxner Highway is a key east/west movement corridor between Ballina and Lismore. Safety and traffic efficiency are key considerations in relation to this route.

We are looking at options to improve safety and accessibility for the intersection of Cowlong and Alphadale roads. The intersection is located on the Bruxner Highway approximately 2.6 km east of Lismore. The land next to the intersection is mostly used for commercial purposes.

The Bruxner Highway has high traffic volumes of an average of 20,000 vehicles per day between Lismore and the Pacific Highway, limiting access. These limitations result in safety concerns for motorists seeking to access the Bruxner Highway and travel north or south. Transport for NSW (Transport) acknowledges that finding an appropriate gap in traffic to enter/exit the Bruxner Highway from either Cowlong Road or Alphadale Road, particularly during peak periods, is difficult.

In 2019 Transport installed warning signs at the intersection of the Bruxner Highway and Cowlong and Alphadale roads to increase driver awareness of the intersection and improve the overall safety of the road environment.

Since then, Transport has been carrying out investigations and exploring options to improve safety at the intersection.

Work to date includes initial technical investigations to understand key advantages and disadvantages of the options. Our work has found that installing traffic lights at this intersection is the best safety outcome for this intersection.

Project benefits include



Improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists



Improved safety for all road users



A road environment that maintains the area's identity while providing opportunities for future revitalisation and growth



Smaller footprint and less earthwork

Criteria



Based on our investigations, we have identified installing traffic lights and implementing a range of safety improvements at the Cowlong and Alphadale roads intersection as our preferred option. Options developed were based on the criteria listed below.

- **Road safety:** Reduce likelihood and severity of crashes
- **Environment:** Reduce environmental impacts with a smaller footprint and less earthworks
- **Traffic efficiency:** Ensure connectivity from side roads to enable overall network efficiency
- **Constructability:** Impacts to normal operations during construction.



The intersection of Bruxner Highway and Cowlong and Alphadale roads

Benefits



When comparing options against the criteria, the preferred option shows many benefits. These include:

- Improving safety at the Cowlong and Alphadale roads Intersection
- Minimal environmental impact
- Consistent with long term planning on the existing Bruxner Highway corridor.



Our work has determined that installing traffic lights at this intersection is the best safety outcome for this intersection

Have Your say

Community and stakeholders are invited to comment on the option outlined in this update. You are encouraged to have your say so we can understand your concerns. Transport values consulting and engaging with the community because we know it leads to better outcomes for stakeholders. The community is invited to provide comment by 24 November.

The community can make comment via the online survey at **www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/bruxner-highway-cowlong-alphadale**

email: **region.north@transport.nsw.gov.au**

or

Grafton Regional Office
PO Box 576
Grafton NSW 2460



Community and stakeholders are invited to comment on the option outlined in this update

Community drop-in session

Members of the project team will be available to discuss the Preferred Option at the following day and times:

Anglican Church Hall, Daley Street, Alstonville
Thursday, 14 November
Session 1: **12pm to 2pm** Session 2: **4pm to 6pm**

Next steps

Feedback received from the community will be considered to help us finalise our plans for the intersection. More information will be provided to the community and stakeholders as the project progresses.

Project milestones



Project planning



Design investigations



Display of preferred option



Review of environmental factors



Project approval



Construction



Contact us



Project Infoline: 1800 653 092



region.north@transport.nsw.gov.au



www.transport.nsw.gov.au/bruxner-highway-cowlong-alphadale



PO Box 576, Grafton, NSW 2460



For the latest traffic updates:

Call 132 701, visit live.traffic.com or download the app Live Traffic NSW



Interpreter service

For languages other than English call **131 450**

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