

Bruxner Highway Wollongbar to Goonellabah

Project update | Have your say on preferred corridor



December 2024



Bruxner Highway looking east from the pedestrian overpass at Kadina Street

Transport for NSW (Transport) has identified a preferred corridor for an upgrade of around eight kilometres of the Bruxner Highway between Sneaths Road, Wollongbar and Kadina Street, Goonellabah.

Preserving the land is the first step towards the future upgrade of this section of the Bruxner Highway and will assist with future planning and land-use decision making. In preserving the corridor, it is noted the preferred corridor is similar to the alignment previously shown in both Lismore and Ballina Council Local Environmental Plans, with one third of the alignment owned by NSW Government.

Transport is now inviting the community to have their say on the preferred corridor to help identify any potential issues ahead of corridor preservation.

The opportunity to have your say is open until 5pm, Friday 20 December 2024.



Land preservation





Background



The Bruxner Highway is a key east-west corridor in northern NSW, stretching more than 400 kilometres from Ballina to Boggabilla. This arterial road connects people to health, education and other essential services, as well as providing critical freight links that many producers in the region rely on.

We have been planning improvements along the full length of the highway and have developed a comprehensive Bruxner Highway corridor strategy. This includes investigating viable options to improve safety for all road users, reduce congestion as well as improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity between Ballina and Lismore.

Identifying and preserving a corridor alignment is the first step in progressing a long-term solution for the potential upgrade of the Bruxner Highway between Wollongbar and Goonellabah. This will work towards helping to improve the safety of communities using the corridor every day to access education, employment, health and social services as well as all road users who travel this corridor.

Identification of the preferred corridor



Many residents in the region are aware of a previously identified road corridor to the north of the existing highway that was a single carriage road alignment, meaning it allowed for one lane of traffic in each direction.

This historic alignment was added to the Lismore and Ballina Council's Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) in the 1970s.

Transport have carried out investigations that tested and analysed a dual carriage road alignment, that is two lanes in each direction, along the historic LEP alignment.

These investigations focused on opportunities to enhance safety and efficiency of the highway that would accommodate increased traffic demand, while also identifying issues that could impact the community and impede delivery of an upgrade.

The outcome of this investigation confirmed a preferred corridor along the historic LEP alignment, with some minor adjustments.

These adjustments were made to ensure a future upgrade could:

- provide a major high speed movement corridor with no at-grade intersections (where local roads intersect with a highway at the same elevation) from Sneaths Road to Oliver Avenue
- tie into the Alstonville Bypass to provide a consistent road environment, being a high-speed arterial road corridor
- bring the alignment up to current safety design standards
- identify opportunities for shared pathways and active transport connections, including along the existing Bruxner Highway alignment
- be designed for B-double and oversize overmass vehicles.



Investigations confirmed a preferred corridor along the historic alignment with some minor adjustments

Property and business impacts

As a result of the historic corridor land zonings within the Council LEPs, there were a number of land acquisitions that took place more than 20 years ago.

The NSW Government already owns around 35 per cent of the historic LEP alignment.

We will provide additional correspondence and information to property owners and businesses that may potentially be impacted by the preferred corridor.

If you believe you will be impacted by the preferred corridor and have not received any contact from Transport, please contact us via the details overleaf.

Bruxner Highway and Cowlong / Alphadale roads intersection improvements

The NSW Government is investing in an upgrade to the Bruxner Highway and Cowlong / Alphadale roads intersection.

Transport has recently displayed a preferred option to install traffic lights at this intersection to enable safer access to and from the highway as well as ensure safe and efficient through traffic movement along the Bruxner Highway. This preferred option aligns with the long-term solution for the potential upgrade of the Bruxner Highway between Wollongbar and Goonellabah.

More information on the project can be found at transport.nsw.gov.au/bruxner-highway-cowlong-alphadale.

Project benefits

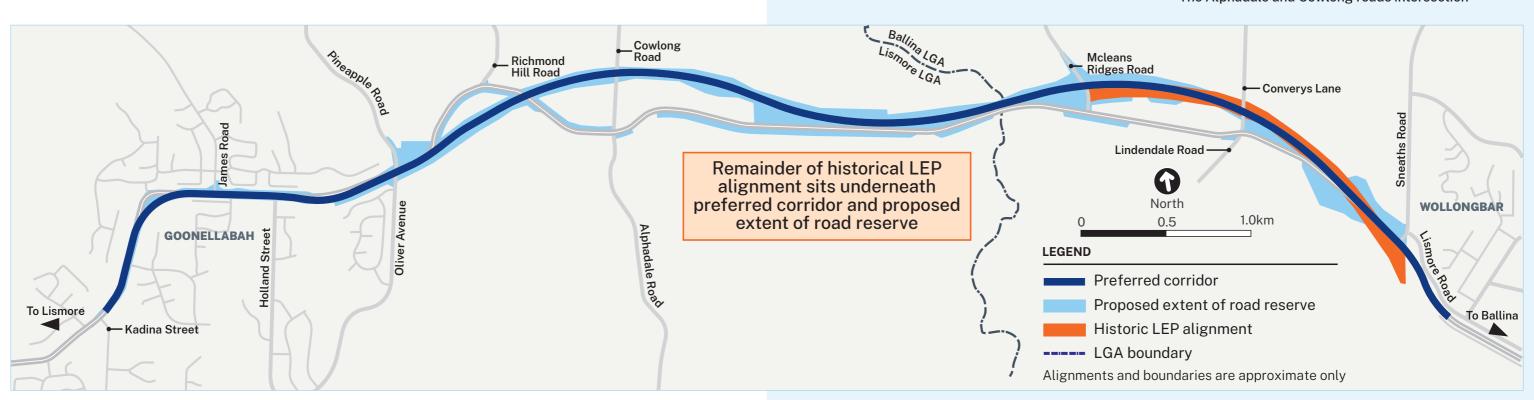


Preservation of the corridor will protect the land needed for a future highway upgrade, while also providing certainty for future planning and land-use decision making by Council and property owners following the 2022 floods.

This is the first step to deliver a safer, more efficient and resilient highway that can support population and economic growth in the region. This will allow us to work with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) as well as Lismore and Ballina councils to incorporate the preferred alignment into the Local Environmental Plans, rather than the historic LEP alignment.



The Alphadale and Cowlong roads intersection



Have your say



We are inviting the community and stakeholders to comment on the preferred corridor and help identify any potential issues and improvements.

You can provide feedback:

- Online: yoursay.transport.nsw.gov.au/w2g
- Email: W2G@transport.nsw.gov.au
- Mail: Bruxner Highway upgrade Wollongbar to Goonellabah Project Team, Transport for NSW, PO 576, Grafton NSW 2460.

Feedback closes 5pm, Friday 20 December 2024.

Next steps



After the display period closes, we will publish a report that includes responses to issues raised by the community. Feedback received on the preferred corridor will be considered, which may require some refinements to the alignment before we work with DPHI and councils to incorporate the preferred corridor into the LEPs.

We will continue to consult with councils, local businesses, community and property owners, to improve our knowledge of the area, which is important in assisting us understand the wider network impacts.

Further progress and timing for an upgrade on this section of the highway is subject to further funding. This includes field investigations to inform the strategic design, community consultation, environmental assessment, property acquisition and the final business case.

We will keep the community informed of any progress via the project web page at nswroads.work/w2g.



Further progress and timing for project milestones on the upgrade is subject to further funding

Project progress



Timing subject to funding allocation and planning approvals.



Investigation



Selection of preferred corridor

Preservation of preferred corridor

Display of strategic concept design

Preparation of concept design and environmental assessment

Display of refined concept design and environmental assessment

Deferred until further

funding secured

Project approval

Detailed design

Construction



Bruxner Highway at the intersection of Oliver Avenue and Pineapple Road

For any questions or more information please contact:



1800 749 234 (free call)



Bruxner Highway upgrade Wollongbar to Goonellabah project team **Transport for NSW, PO Box 576, Grafton NSW 2460**



W2G@transport.nsw.gov.au



nswroads.work/w2g



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