



What is the Roads Act and why does it need changing?

The *Roads Act 1993* is the main law that governs how roads and streets are managed across NSW. It was written over 30 years ago, when the focus was mostly on building highways and supporting car travel.

Today, roads and streets are more than just places for vehicles, they're spaces where people walk, cycle, catch public transport, meet, shop, and connect with their communities. The current law doesn't reflect these modern needs. That's why the NSW Government is reviewing the Act to make sure it supports safer, more inclusive, and better-connected communities.

Who have we engaged with already and what have they told us?

We've spoken with councils, community groups, advocacy organisations, and the public. Over 2,600 people visited the consultation website in early 2025, and more than 70 written submissions were received.

Here's what we heard:

- People want streets that are safer and more welcoming for everyone, especially for walking, cycling, and public transport users.
- Councils want clearer roles and more say in managing local roads.
- Communities want streets that support outdoor dining, events, and local businesses.
- There is strong support for updating the law to reflect sustainability, accessibility, and modern transport options.

What are we engaging about?

We are engaging with roads authorities and key stakeholders on an Options Paper, a detailed document which outlines three different models or options for reforming the Act. These models aim to achieve the following outcomes in Table 1.

Table 1: Roads Act Review outcomes

Outcome	Description
Universal access	Ensure the right of passage and access for all people
Safety	Provide a safe road system for all road users
Wellbeing	Support the physical, mental and social wellbeing of communities through equitable, safe and pleasant streetscapes
Efficiency	Manage the network to support the space-efficient and reliable movement of people and goods
Productivity	Support economic activity, including freight movement, deliveries, servicing, vibrancy and place activity
Sustainability	Promote sustainable travel choices and the efficient use of energy, materials and land
Resilience	Enable the road network to withstand, adapt to and recover from disruption and a changing climate
Environmental protection	Protect the built and natural environment from degradation or harm
Asset protection	Prevent premature deterioration, structural damage and excessive wear to the road network
Orderly development	Coordinate road network development with land use, public transport and multimodal movement
Financial responsibility	Develop and manage the road network in a way that makes the best use of public funds

What can you do to have your say?

We're not asking you to choose between legal models. Instead, thinking about the outcomes above, we want to hear more broadly from members of the community:

- **What are your biggest concerns about roads and streets in your area?**
- **What do you want roads and streets to look and feel like in the future?**
- **What would make your experience of roads and streets safer, easier, or more enjoyable?**

Your feedback will help shape how roads and streets are managed across NSW, so they work better for everyone.

Visit the Have Your Say portal to share your thoughts via the community survey:

www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/roads-act-1993