

Ousedale Creek Koala Underpass

Project determination

July 2025



The Ousedale Creek Koala Underpass Project (formerly known as Brian Road Intersection Upgrade) will deliver a fauna underpass and other mitigation measures to protect local koala and wildlife populations.

Appin Road is a major arterial road supporting travel to and from the south-west Sydney region and Wollongong area. The area to the east and west of the road is also home to one of the few recovering koala populations in NSW.

Transport on behalf of Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, will improve safety on Appin Road. As part of the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan, Transport will install a koala underpass near the Appin Road and Brian Road intersection, and koala exclusion fencing.

This will improve the connectivity of koala habitat along Appin Road between the Nepean and Georges Rivers through the Ousedale Creek corridor.



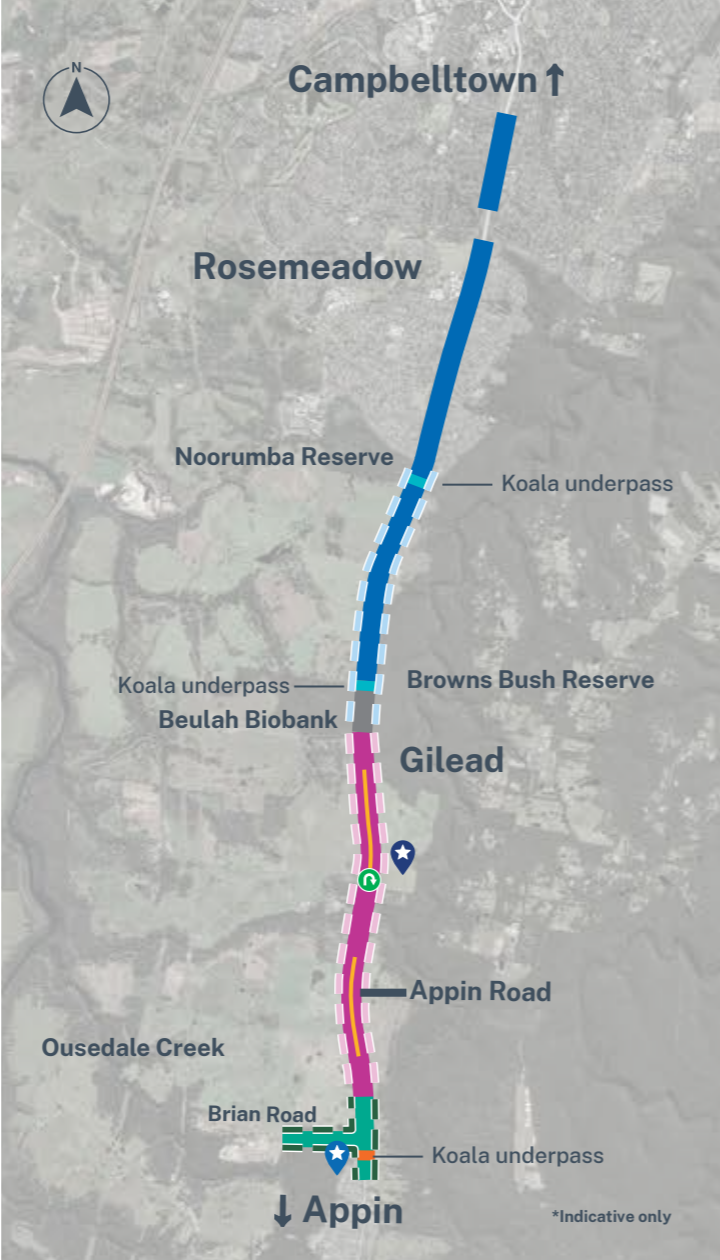
Consultation background

A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the Brian Road Intersection Upgrade Project was placed on public display for community feedback between 25 January and 24 February 2023. The REF included:

- a fauna underpass under Appin Road approximately 35 metres south of the intersection of Appin Road and Brian Road as well as refuge poles and tree logs at the fauna underpass entrances
- safety barriers and koala exclusion fencing, koala escape poles and koala escape hatches along Appin Road and Brian Road
- koala grids at property driveways and across Brian Road
- a new vegetated fauna path that will connect to the new fauna underpass leading to existing mature vegetation within the proposal boundary
- fauna fence drop downs at either side of the underpass to allow trapped fauna inside the road reserve to escape
- installation of relocated utilities including drainage, roadside furniture, pavement markings, street lighting and signage
- single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Appin Road and Brian Road and road and embankment widening.

Transport would like to thank the community for their feedback, which has been considered as part of the planning approval process.

The project has now been determined and feedback received has been responded to in a Submissions Report which is now available to view at www.transport.nsw.gov.au/ousedale-creek



Community and environmental benefits

As a result of community feedback, several changes were made to the project scope. These changes include:

- removal of the single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Appin Road and Brian Road and the road and embankment widening
- reduction in the project footprint at the northern extent of the project site by around 250m
- change to the underpass design to a box culvert fauna underpass underneath Appin Road approximately 35m south of the Brian Road intersection, instead of the proposed reinforced concrete pipe underpass in the same location, near the Ousedale Creek Corridor
- an additional koala grid across Brian Road at the western extent of the project site
- new koala escape poles and koala escape hatches:
 - on either side of Appin Road at the southern extent of the project site
 - just north of the intersection of Brian Road and Appin Road
 - on either side of Brian Road at the western extent of the project site
- additional koala escape poles and fauna furniture at the fauna underpass entrances and in the underpass structure.

Feedback received

We heard that while you support increasing protection for wildlife, some submissions proposed additional koala connectivity and changes to the road design.

Design suggestions included increasing koala connectivity along Appin Road by installing an underpass at Mallaty Creek and suggesting upgrading Appin Road to a multilane carriageway. Feedback also raised concerns about whether the REF was consistent with expert advice.

We heard feedback from community members, organisations, government agencies and businesses.

We'd like to thank everyone who submitted feedback.

Our response

Transport's approach to the environmental assessment considered the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer's reports delivered in 2020 and 2021, and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's (DPHI) Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP) and their respective recommendations regarding koala protection and connectivity.

We worked closely with experts in koala ecology as well as key stakeholders, such as DPHI, to ensure our designs meet best practice to preserve the local koala population and minimise vehicle strikes.



Koala connectivity

Transport for NSW acknowledges the growing issue of koala vehicle strikes on Appin Road. This issue will be delivered by three separate projects. These will provide continuous koala exclusion fencing between Rosemeadow and Appin township including three koala underpasses at Noorumba Reserve, Beulah biobank site and Ousedale Creek.

Koala strike mitigation measures throughout NSW follow the requirements set by relevant conservation plans that have been developed by leading experts and the advice by the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer.

The Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer (OCSE) has prepared two reports addressing koala management relevant to the CPCP which includes comprehensive advice on koala management of Appin Road.

Based on the minimum average koala habitat corridor widths recommended by the NSW Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer, the vegetation along Mallaty Creek is considered too narrow and fragmented to provide effective koala connectivity between Georges River and Nepean River.

However, the CPCP recognises the important native vegetation within the Mallaty Creek corridor should be protected for its biodiversity and amenity values. As such, the CPCP specifically excludes future development from the Mallaty Creek corridor, mapping it as avoided land and applying planning controls that exclude koalas from the corridor and that protect the corridor's biodiversity values over the long term.

The recommendations in the CPCP have not been made by Transport for NSW.

Road design

Following community feedback, the project will no longer include a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Appin Road and Brian Road or road and embankment widening.

As a result, the koala exclusion fencing at the intersection of Brian Road and Appin Road will be straightened to follow the existing path of Appin Road.

The current traffic configurations will also remain, including the right-hand turn lane and a posted speed along Appin Road of 80km/h and access to an existing roundabout close to the Appin township where U-turning is available.

Next steps

A contract will soon be awarded for the detailed design and construction of the project. Construction is expected to start in mid-2026 and take approximately two years to complete.

Every effort would be made to minimise any construction impacts to the local community. We will keep the community informed prior to any activities taking place.



Koala using an escape hatch ('one way doggy door') during a trial by Endeavour Veterinary Ecology.

How we're protecting wildlife on our roads

Transport for NSW uses several mitigation measures across the state which comply with relevant conservation plans and have been developed in consultation with leading experts in the field.

Transport not only uses established techniques, such as fencing and barriers, we are also exploring emerging technologies to help further reduce wildlife vehicle strikes and enhance habitat connectivity including trials of AI animal detection systems and pavement markings.

Independent research has revealed that fencing or barriers remain the strongest solution for wildlife protection from vehicle strikes on higher speed roads, with speed reductions offering minimal benefits for animal outcomes on major road corridors.

Other measures that help to play a part in reducing road strikes include signage, education and engagement, and enhancing visibility along roads.

To help change driver behaviour and increase awareness, Transport has implemented static and visual messaging signs and road markings along Appin Road advising motorists to look out for koalas.

Contact us



Project Infoline **1800 684 490**



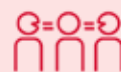
projects@transport.nsw.gov.au



Visit the online portal at
www.transport.nsw.gov.au/ousedale-creek



For the latest traffic updates:
Call 132 701, visit livetraffic.com
or download the app Live Traffic NSW



Interpreter service

For languages other than English call **131 450**
Bengali • Arabic • Hindi • Filipino • Mandarin

ইংরেজি ছাড়া অন্য ভাষায় দোভাষী পরিষেবা পেতে ১৩১ ৪৫০
নম্বরে কল করুন

الطلب خدمة الترجمة الشفهية للغات غير الإنجليزية اتصل
بالرقم 131 450

अंग्रेज़ी के अतिरिक्त अन्य भाषाओं के लिए दुभाषिया सेवा 131 450
पर कॉल करें

Para sa serbisyo ng interpreter sa ibang mga wika maliban
sa Ingles, tumawag sa **131 450**

获取英语以外的其他语言口译协助服务可以致电131 450