



Frequently Asked Questions

Roads Act 1993 Review

August 2025



What is the *Roads Act 1993* Review?

Simplifying the planning, management and delivery of roads is key to building stronger communities and connections across NSW.

The *Roads Act 1993* (The Act) is over 30 years old and the NSW Government wants to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

The NSW Government plans to create a more contemporary planning and management framework for roads and streets across NSW, better enable Transport for NSW (Transport) and councils as decision makers and recognises the function of roads not only for vehicle traffic but for all road users.

With the input and support of key stakeholders, from local government decision makers, agencies, organisations and peak bodies that interact with the Act to the broader community, we intend to deliver a targeted review of the Act which will empower local councils, cut red tape for faster decision making, remove operational challenges and deliver a statute which is adaptable for the future.

Why is the Act being reviewed now?

The Act has undergone minimal change since commencing in 1993 but over time much has changed in terms of community expectations, modes of transport, technology and the way we live our lives.

Since the Act commenced, Transport and NSW councils have introduced a range of administrative processes to enable the day-to-day management and delivery of the road network to continue. These processes can often add additional complexity and time to the process.

It could better support the Government's objectives for housing, vibrancy and a more

equitable and healthy transport system that recognises the multiple users and uses for roads within communities. There is an opportunity to update the Act to better reflect the function of roads in NSW for all users recognising both the importance of traffic movement as well as the place-making roles that streets play.

Furthermore, several inquiries and reform initiatives have recently recommended prioritising a review of the *Roads Act 1993*, including the recent inquiry into E-scooters and E-bikes and the update to the Road User Space Allocation policy.

What parts of the Act are under review?

When working through the review Transport will consider a range of factors including:

- how the role of roads and streets have changed since the 1990s
- whether there are better ways to acknowledge and accommodate all road users
- how we can enhance the functionality of roads and streets
- how we can streamline the way we plan for road-based transport and users to improve development outcomes
- how we can simplify decision making for roads authorities and therefore communities
- how the regulatory framework can remain responsive to change and ready to meet future challenges.

As this will be a targeted review, some aspects will be out of scope for reform. The review will not be addressing funding arrangements between and within different levels of government. The review will also not consider

changes to the way roads are maintained and the contractual arrangements currently in place.

What is out of scope for the review?

The following is out of scope for this legislative review:

- funding arrangements including block grants and other grant programs
- changes to Commonwealth legislation
- changes to the Crown Lands Management Act 1989
- road tolling.

What are key objectives of the review?

The NSW Government has set four targeted objectives for improvement. They are ensuring:

1. More contemporary uses for roads and streets that are safe and responsive to community needs.
2. Faster local decision making with appropriate mitigations to manage network risk.
3. A streamlined and easy to use statute that keeps pace with change.
4. A more operationally effective statute.

What are the benefits of this review?

Through the review of the Act, we will identify opportunities to simplify processes within the legislation to make road management more efficient and straightforward.

It will also help to accelerate the delivery of other key NSW Government commitments including:

- Housing – to better align the planning and transport frameworks, reducing the delays and duplication in developing assessment processes and provide up front clarity for housing development and how it relates to the NSW road network.
- Vibrancy – clarify in the legislation the roles and responsibilities of councils as roads authorities so decision making is faster and easier while managing risk.
- Equity – address transport disadvantage by motivating roads authorities to consider the road user space being reallocated to more efficient and climate friendly forms of transport such as public and active transport.

What is the review process?

The review of the Act will be carried out during this term of government. It will also consider necessary and accompanying amendments to the *Road Transport Act 2013* and the *Transport Administration Act 1988*.

1. Issues Paper consultation

As a first step Transport published an Issues Paper in February 2025 and invited feedback via the [online Have Your Say \(HYS\) portal](#) on the four objectives identified for this reform. This formal consultation involved widespread engagement with councils, peak bodies and other key stakeholders through face-to-face forums.

Transport received submissions from a wide group of stakeholders on different approaches to change. These submissions have been published on the Transport website.

A consultation report published on the [Transport website](#) and HYS portal in May 2025.

2. Options Paper consultation

After consulting on the Issues Paper Transport has released an Options Paper in August 2025.

This new paper expands on the previous one to explore reform models that could establish a suitable framework for a modern and efficient Roads Act.

Opportunities to provide feedback are outlined via the [online HYS portal](#).

Online and in-person engagement opportunities will also take place. Consultation closes on **Friday 31 October 2025**. Feedback will be summarised in a consultation report at the end of 2025.

3. Recommendation to Government

In early 2026, a report of recommendations on the approach to reform, informed by the feedback received, will be presented to the NSW Government for consideration.

4. Government considers

The NSW Government will consider the proposed legislative changes and decide on implementation of reforms.

How does the Options Paper differ from the Issues paper?

The Options Paper expands on the previous Issues Paper to explore reform options that could establish a suitable framework for a modern and efficient Roads Act.

Insights gathered from written submissions, survey responses, briefings, workshops and meetings with councils, peak bodies, advocacy groups and community representatives have directly informed the development of the reform options. The Options Paper reflects the priorities, challenges and aspirations of those who interact with the Act in practice.

The Options Paper presents three potential models for reforming the Roads Act 1993. These models reflect different ways of structuring responsibilities, regulatory tools and decision-making frameworks for the future management of roads and streets across NSW.

Would Transport adopt a single reform model outlined in the Options Paper?

The reform models presented in the Options Paper are not intended to be mutually exclusive or implemented all at once. They can represent a continuum of change, from simpler, short-term improvements such as codifying existing practices, to more complex, longer-term reforms like adopting a plan-led regulatory framework or exploring institutional changes.

Transport acknowledges that meaningful reform takes time. Based on the feedback received during this consultation phase, the recommended options considered by Parliament could be designed for staged implementation with support provided to councils and stakeholders throughout the transition over time.

This approach allows for early wins while laying the groundwork for more ambitious reforms over the next five or more years.

What are the next steps for the review?

The Options Paper consultation period will close on **Friday 31 October 2025**. Feedback received will inform the selection and refinement of the preferred model and support the development of legislative and implementation proposals.

This will be the final opportunity to provide input into the review and shape the recommendations to the Ministers.

A consultation summary report will be available in late 2025.

Can the Options Paper consultation period be extended?

The final date for submissions and feedback via the Have Your Say portal will be **Friday 31 October**. Transport will not extend this date due to the required timeframes to complete the review during this Parliamentary term.

Are there any related initiatives underway?

There are several significant and related Transport initiatives underway or soon to commence which contribute to meeting the goal of improving the approach to planning, managing, and maintaining roads and streets in NSW and the role they play in our communities' lives, these include but are not limited to:

- Design of Roads and Streets Implementation
- Local Traffic Committee Reform
- Community Improvement Districts
- Ongoing work on the Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plans
- Approach to road recategorisation
- Speed Zone Review training.

These initiatives all involve collaboration with local councils.

We recognise that working together with councils is crucial and the NSW Government is committed to continuing to strengthen our relationships with local government partners.

How can I ask more questions?

Further questions can be directed to Transport via email at

roadsactfeedback@transport.nsw.gov.au.