

Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Evacuation Road Resilience Program



The NSW Government is delivering a high priority Disaster Adaptation Plan (DAP) for the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley, and in partnership with the Australian Government has committed \$33 million towards planning for more than 100 infrastructure improvements that will help people evacuate safely ahead of a flood.

Disaster Adaptation Plan (DAP) for the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley

The objective of the DAP is to reduce flood risk to life, property, and social amenity from regional floods in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley.

The DAP acknowledges there is no single solution to address flood risk and includes numerous separate, but related initiatives to be implemented by various State Government agencies.

The DAP identifies flood evacuation road resilience improvements as one initiative to address specific flood risk issues within the valley.

Transport for NSW (Transport), is working on the Flood Evacuation Road Resilience Program, to help reduce flood risk. In partnership with the NSW State Emergency Services (NSW SES), Transport has identified road infrastructure improvements across four Western Sydney Local Government areas: Penrith, Hawkesbury, Blacktown and The Hills.

The improvement projects include road shoulder widening, new drainage and bridge structures, road raising, pinch point upgrades and other drainage improvements.

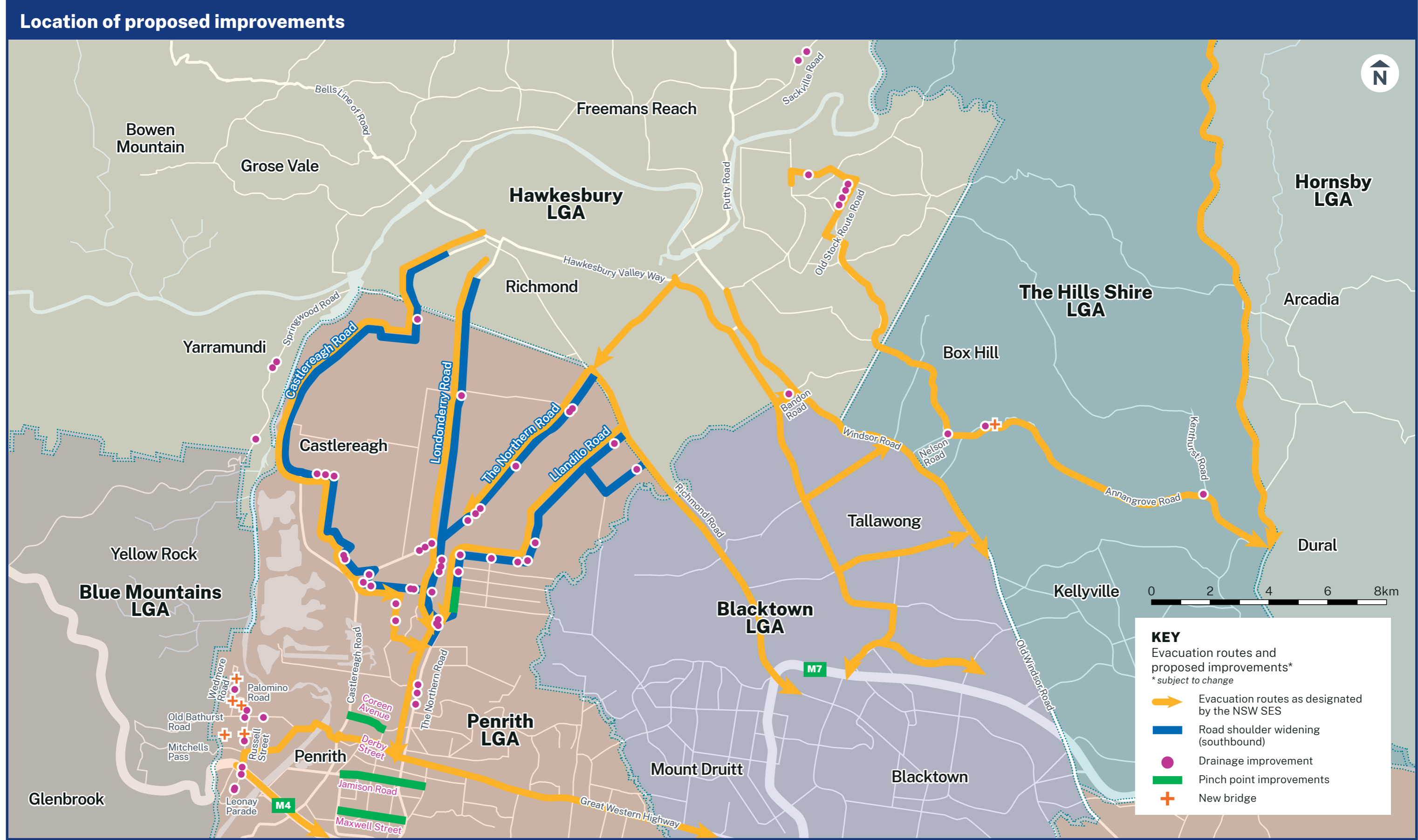
The projects in the Program will improve the road network, particularly at key low points, so that residents can evacuate from the area safely in the

event of a flood. The improvements are designed specifically to help in times of flood and are not intended to provide additional road capacity to address day to day traffic congestion.

The Flood Evacuation Road Resilience Program is just one initiative to reducing flood risk across the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley, but by itself is not a complete solution.

The Flood Evacuation Road Resilience Program aims to support residents to safely evacuate from flood prone areas by:

- Providing additional time to safely access road evacuation routes in the event of a flood.
- Making evacuation routes better able to withstand local/flash flooding which can cause early closure of evacuation routes. Improvements are not intended to address major/riverine flooding.
- Improving the ability of the evacuation routes to handle large numbers of vehicles in an evacuation situation.

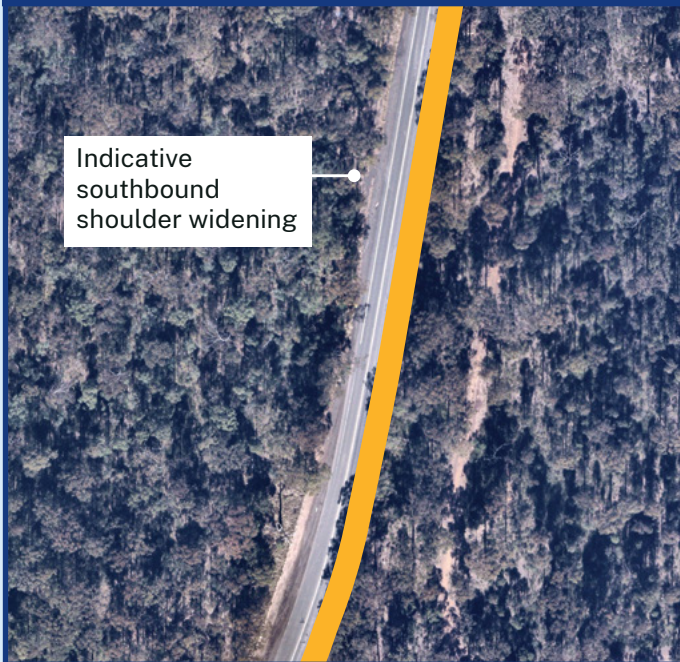


What will the improvements look like?

Typical improvements to NSW SES designated evacuation routes and at other identified flood risk locations will include shoulder widening (to provide additional evacuation capacity), bridge, road raising, drainage and channel works and pinch point upgrades, such as additional lanes at roundabouts (to provide additional evacuation capacity). The images below show some of the proposed improvements that will be part of the concept design.

Typical improvements

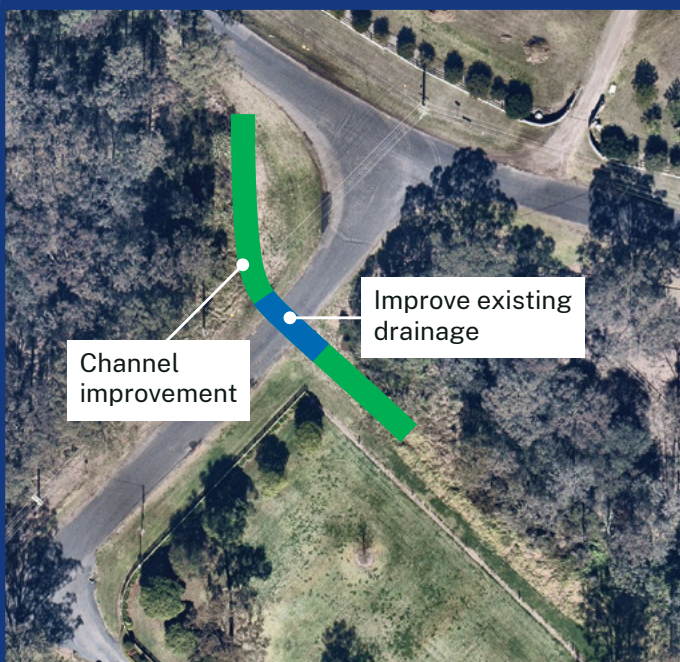
Road shoulder widening



Bridge



Drainage work

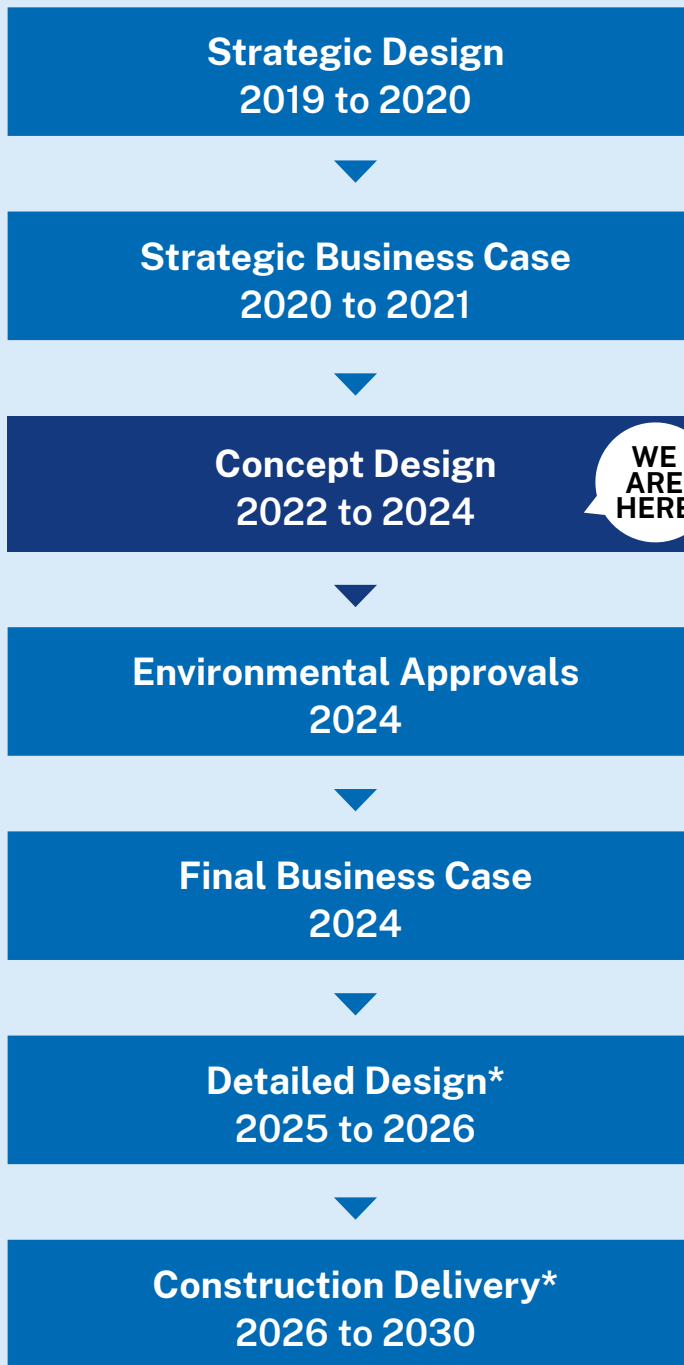


Pinch point



Images not to scale

Our planning process



*Subject to funding availability

Current planning stage

Transport is developing the concept design and Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the improvement projects identified in the Flood Evacuation Road Resilience Program.

Planning work has already started across all improvement areas, including site investigations to inform the concept design development and environmental assessment of identified improvements.

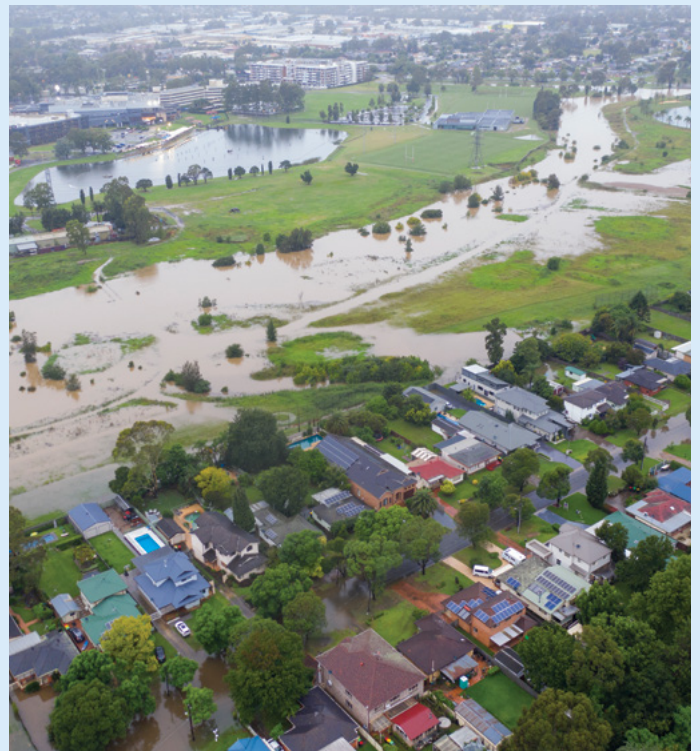
Site investigation work

Survey, utility, environmental and geotechnical investigations have now been underway since late 2022 and will continue until the end of 2024.

Most of the investigations have been carried out in the road corridor. We have now started investigations in private property. Transport is finalising contact with all property owners where we require access to private property to carry out investigations.

Why do we need access to private property?

Transport is required to carry out investigations in private property to collect sufficient information to develop an accurate Flood Model to inform the development of the concept design and environmental assessment for the identified improvements.



Penrith March 2021, Photo by Adam Hollingworth, courtesy Infrastructure NSW.

Flood Evacuation Directional Signage

The Flood Evacuation Directional Signage scheme, was developed by Transport and NSW SES to assist the NSW SES with evacuating people out of flooded areas and guiding them towards safer locations. These signs were installed along designated evacuation routes in 2019.

The signs inform and guide evacuees away from flooding along identified evacuation routes and towards safer locations.

Some of the signs are folding and are only active and opened during flood evacuations by either Transport or the responsible local council. Other signs that do not fold are open at all times.

The images below show some of the signs installed, when operational.

For more information about evacuation routes visit <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/flood-awareness-nsw/sydney-rivers/hawkesbury-nepean-valley/>



Pitt Town Route. Bathurst Street, north bound, 50m north of Buckingham Street, Pitt Town.



Pitt Town Route. Redfern Place, east bound, at Mitchell Road, Pitt Town.

Next steps and having your say

You will soon have the opportunity to have your say and provide feedback on the concept design and Review of Environmental Factors (REF).

Transport will invite the community to review the proposed designs and provide feedback on each improvement. The improvements are spread over a large geographic area across the valley, throughout four council areas, so we will engage separately with each unique community, based on these locations.

If you live near or may be impacted by one of the proposed improvements, we will send you information about the proposed work and how you can have your say.

Consultation will occur later this year and into 2024.

Contact us

Please contact the project team if you have any questions or would like more information:



1800 684 490



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transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/road-resilience-program



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