



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Transport for NSW

Barton Highway upgrade

Community update | Autumn 2020



The first stage of duplication on the Barton Highway is moving closer to construction, with work expected to start towards the end of this year.

Overview

The Australian and NSW governments are funding the \$100 million duplication of the Barton Highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman. The upgrade will provide safer and quicker journeys for the 13,000 motorists who use the corridor every day, improve travel times and create vibrant community spaces. It will improve access to essential services in Canberra and make communities along the highway an even better place to live, work and visit. The Australian Government has committed another \$100 million pending further planning.

Feedback received on environmental report

We invited public feedback on the review of environmental factors (REF) from Monday 24 February to Friday 27 March.

The REF examined and considered the impact of duplication on the environment and cultural sites of significance within the project boundary.

As part of the call for public feedback, residents could view the REF online at rms.nsw.gov.au/barton or chat to us at information sessions at Yass and Murrumbateman.

Thank you to everyone who submitted feedback or reached out to us during this time.

While the feedback period has closed, the report is still available on the project website.

Seven submissions were received during the feedback period.

A submissions report is now being prepared to respond to this feedback and will be published to the project website when complete.

We will contact the community when this report is published.

The REF is expected to be determined in coming months.

We will work with the successful contractor to develop Construction Environmental Management Plans as the project progresses, to ensure the environment is considered to the fullest extent.



Intersection and bus stop improvements are progressing at Gooda Creek Road and Vallencia Drive.

Autumn 2020



New electronic signs and closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras will be installed at key locations soon, advising drivers of conditions or traffic impacts.

Your safety matters

You've told us improving transport including safe access to bus stops, improved driver behaviour and better turning movements onto and off the Barton Highway is important to you.

Bus stops

This year we are updating a number of bus stops along the Barton Highway to improve safety for the community.

The improved stops will feature an off-road turning circle for buses to drop off and collect passengers away from high-speed highway traffic.

Bus stops at Euroka Avenue, Gooda Creek Road and Vallencia Drive are being upgraded as part of the current intersection improvement work.

Benefits include:

- protecting bus users and pedestrians from highway traffic
- improving motorist safety by removing bus stops from the highway, reducing the likelihood of highway traffic crashing into buses
- modern shelters for bus users to protect from weather conditions
- safer parking options for parents and carers to deliver and collect children from buses
- improving traffic flow and journey efficiency for other road users while allowing buses to more easily rejoin highway traffic.

There will be minimal disruptions to existing bus routes at Euroka Avenue and Gooda Creek Road while this work takes place.

There will be minor changes to the Vallencia Drive bus timetable once construction is complete later this year.

Intersection upgrades

Work is under way on intersection improvements at Vallencia Drive and Gooda Creek Road, in conjunction with bus stop improvements. The Barton Highway Improvement Strategy (2017) identified turning onto and off the highway from local roads as a key challenge for road users and these upgrades will ease some of that pressure.

Work at Gooda Creek Road includes constructing a southbound deceleration lane for exiting highway traffic, building a concrete median strip and widening Gooda Creek Road approaching the intersection. It also involves relocating the existing southbound bus stop from the highway to a newly constructed bus stop next to Gooda Creek Road. We are also improving line marking and signage to keep road users better informed.

At Vallencia Drive, we are extending the deceleration line by 60 metres, allowing safer exiting off the highway and less disruption for continuing northbound traffic.

A raised concrete median is being built to allow vehicles to stop further into the intersection before turning onto the highway, which will improve sight distance at the intersection and reduce the amount of time that turning vehicles are in the intersection.

We will also widen the road sides and improve drainage, line marking and signage.

The \$2 million intersection and bus stop upgrade is expected to be completed by mid-2020, weather permitting. We will keep the community informed of traffic changes through media, our email distribution list, online, and mailing nearby residents.

Our project team spoke to the community at the Murrumbateman Village Markets early in February about plans for the intersections and bus stop improvements.

Electronic messaging

Crews will soon start installing permanent electronic message boards at three locations:

- Barton Highway at Lucernvale Road
- Barton Highway at the ACT border
- Yass Valley Way, near the Rayner Place and Glover Drive intersection.

The signs will keep road users informed of changes to traffic conditions, such as road works and unexpected highway closures, and provide fog warnings – just one of the ways we are helping to get you home safely.

You may also notice new CCTV cameras along the highway as part of this \$3 million project. These cameras will feed traffic information back to our team, allowing quick Live Traffic and electronic message board updates about potential delays and changed traffic conditions during duplication work.

They are not speed enforcement cameras, but there to make your journey smoother and safer.



Staff spoke to community members at Yass (above) and Murrumbateman (below) during the review of environmental factors call for feedback.

Addressing driver behaviour

Our Improvement Strategy survey showed poor driver behaviour is the number one concern for Barton Highway road users. This is also a frequent concern voiced by road users at our community information sessions.

Poor or inconsiderate driver behaviour not only increases stress levels for fellow motorists but also poses a safety risk.

Concerns include “bunching” traffic where vehicles travel too close together and often at reduced speeds, leading to dangerous overtaking behaviour by some road users.

Our approach:

- implement campaigns to target reckless overtaking and bad driver behaviour on the Barton Highway
- identify opportunities for increased speed camera locations, particularly around Murrumbateman village, to help curb speeding
- our soon-to-be active CCTV cameras will feed critical information about road conditions to our team in real-time, allowing up-to-date information on delays and crashes to be shared. By keeping road users informed of changes, we hope to decrease driver frustration and improve journeys.

You asked, we delivered

Noise from heavy vehicle engine compression brakes is a significant and ongoing cause of complaint for affected residents, especially through Murrumbateman at night time.

As a result of community concern, we have installed a sign on the southern approach to Murrumbateman, to encourage truck drivers to limit noise through compression braking.

Engine brakes cause the engine to act as a compressor when braking. The compressed air is released in short bursts, which causes the characteristic engine brake “bark”. It is mostly the nature of this noise, rather than its volume, that causes annoyance.

While freight remains an important part of Transport for NSW’s responsibility, we also want to help our small communities.

There is no regulatory power to enforce the brake noise limits, however Transport for NSW does check heavy vehicles for faulty noise emission control equipment at periodic inspections, or following complaint, and can issue defect notices where warranted.

Award of tender

Since October last year, our project team has been working on finalising the award of tender to design and construct the Barton Highway duplication from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman.

We are currently in the Request for Proposal stage of the procurement, and we expect the successful applicant to be announced in **mid-2020**.

The successful tenderer will then begin detailed design of the duplication boundary and is expected to start work on site towards the end of this year.

We're here for you

We will continue to liaise with stakeholders and the community during the detailed design, construction and operation phases.

You can subscribe to email and SMS updates to stay informed about work on the Barton Highway.

To register your details, contact the project team on **1800 931 250** or email barton.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au

Building road infrastructure is disruptive and takes time. Thank you for your patience. We encourage you to find out what's happening in your area at www.future.transport.nsw.gov.au.

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Barton Highway upgrade project please contact our project team:



1800 931 250 (toll free)



barton.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au



www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/barton-highway



PO Box 484 Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Did you know?

The Barton Highway is named after Australia's first Prime Minister, Edmund Barton, whose federation government was responsible for establishing the Australian Defence Force among other things.

The Barton Highway is a relative newcomer to NSW's State Road Network. It was officially named the Barton Highway in August 1954 and fully sealed six years later.



Translating and Interpreting Service

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450** and ask them to telephone Transport for NSW on **1800 931 250**

Arabic

إذا كنتم بحاجة إلى مترجم، الرجاء الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الخطية والشفوية (TIS National) على الرقم **131 450**.
على الرقم والطلب منهم الاتصال بوكالتكم Transport for NSW على الرقم **1800 931 250**

Cantonese

若你需要口譯員，請致電 **131 450** 聯絡翻譯和口譯服務署 (TIS National)，要求他們致電 **1800 931 250** 聯絡 Transport for NSW

Mandarin

如果你需要口译员，请致电 **131 450** 联系翻译和口译服务署 (TIS National)，要求他们致电 **1800 931 250** 联系 Transport for NSW

Greek

Αν χρειάζεστε διερμηνέα, παρακαλείστε να τηλεφωνήσετε στην Υπηρεσία Μετάφρασης και Διερμηνείας (Εθνική Υπηρεσία TIS) στο **131 450** και ζητήστε να τηλεφωνήσουν Transport for NSW στο **1800 931 250**.

Italian

Se desiderate l'assistenza di un interprete, prego telefonare al Servizio Interpreti e Traduttori (TIS National) al **131 450** chiedendo di contattare Transport for NSW al **1800 931 250**.

Korean

통역사가 필요하시면 번역통역서비스 (TIS National)에 **131 450** 으로 연락하여 이들에게 **1800 931 250**. 번으로 Transport for NSW 에 전화하도록 요청하십시오.

Vietnamese

Nếu cần thông ngôn viên, xin quý vị gọi cho Dịch Vụ Thông Phiên Dịch (TIS Toàn Quốc) qua số **131 450** và nhờ họ gọi cho Transport for NSW qua số **1800 931 250**.