



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Barton Highway upgrade

Project update

Roads and Maritime Services | Summer 2019



Road users will benefit from Barton Highway improvements

The Barton Highway is an essential part of the NSW and ACT transport network, connecting communities to essential services, employment, healthcare, education opportunities and supporting freight movement. The upgrade aims to improve safety for all road users, while enhancing tourism, driving economic growth and creating vibrant regional spaces.

In this update

- Future Transport 2056
- Safety improvements
- Community consultation
- Duplication from ACT border towards Murrumbateman
- Future duplication plans
- Next steps



Improving safety



Better and more **reliable trips**
for people, business and freight



Easing congestion

Overview

The Barton Highway upgrade is moving closer to construction and work is continuing behind the scenes. Upgrading the highway and carrying out safety improvements will bring major benefits to road users. These improvements support regional development and will provide:

- safer travel
- reduced travel times with improved transport efficiency
- more consistent and reliable travel
- safer conditions for road users and local communities.

Roads and Maritime Services wants to build the best Barton Highway possible for our communities. We appreciate your patience and value your input.

Safety work

The *Barton Highway Improvement Strategy 2017* identified a number of safety concerns along the highway. Almost 13,000 vehicles use the highway daily and we have already completed many improvements to get you home safely and more reliably.

- To reduce the likelihood of run-off road crashes, we have completed shoulder improvement work, upgraded signage, installed safety barriers, adjusted line marking and cleared vegetation. We will monitor this work as part of our routine maintenance program to ensure safe conditions.
- In March 2019 a small number of mature trees between Casuarina Lane and Yass Valley Way were removed to reduce the likelihood of fallen branches and severity of crashes at these locations
- To minimise the severity of crashes, six bridge barriers were upgraded at Gooromon Ponds Creek, Jeir Creek, Gooda Creek and McClungs Creek in May 2019 to reduce potential hazards and crash impacts
- Road surface repairs and stormwater drain improvements were completed in June 2019.

Future Transport 2056

Future Transport 2056 is a series of plans to achieve a 40-year vision for NSW's transport system. *Future Transport 2056* places the customer at the centre of everything we do. It outlines a vision, strategic directions and customer outcomes, with infrastructure and services plans underpinning the delivery of these directions.

Key messages for *Future Transport 2056*:

- the importance of our choices today in shaping the future of the Barton Highway road network through long-term planning
- an efficient transport system creates a productive economy to benefit local business growth
- liveable communities promote social inclusion and support the health and wellbeing of the people who live in them. From Yass to Canberra to Murrumbateman and in between, the Barton Highway upgrade aims to put community needs first
- to create a sustainable society, maximise the benefits of planned investment and improve the emissions intensity and environmental costs for all road users and residents connected to the Barton Highway.

Find out more at future.transport.nsw.gov.au.





One of the bus stop locations under review

Improving bus stops

We are assessing bus stop facilities as part of our commitment to improving safety for road users and the communities along the Barton Highway.

Following consultation with bus company representatives to discuss current and future requirements we identified:

- a number of bus stops are operating safely and efficiently and are considered suitable to cater for anticipated future growth
- a new bus stop or interchange at Vallencia Drive
- new off-road bus stops at Euroka Avenue and Gooda Creek Road
- improved signage at Munday's Lane.

We will continue to engage with Yass Valley Council, bus operators and bus users to finalise the design before construction starts next year.



Electronic message signs will help road users plan their journey

Helping with journey planning

Three permanent electronic message signs will be installed along the Barton Highway early in 2020 to improve safety and provide information for journey planning. There will be two signs at the Yass end of the highway, and one near the ACT border, expected to be working by May next year. The signs will:

- inform road users of changed traffic conditions as they happen to ensure more reliable travel
- provide fog detection warnings to help road users adapt to weather conditions
- allow road users to better plan their journey creating improved travel times.

DM Roads will deliver this work and has started investigation work on Yass Valley Way and the Barton Highway. The team has consulted with nearby residents and the community at the recent Murrumbateman Field Days about the positioning of the permanent signs and will inform road users of changed traffic conditions during installation.



The Vallencia Drive intersection upgrade will improve safety and traffic flow on the Barton Highway

Improving cyclist and pedestrian access in Murrumbateman

Stakeholders have expressed concerns about the safety of pedestrians in Murrumbateman including:

- lack of pedestrian visibility for motorists
- people walking close to traffic along the highway shoulder from Fairley Estate.

Our concept plans involve:

- extending the existing pathway from the bus stop to Fairley Estate to provide safe passage around the village
- installing a pedestrian fence at Jones Park with new signs and line marking to improve safety at the crossing
- collaborating on Yass Valley Council's Active Transport plan to create an interconnected movement network that will meet the needs of Murrumbateman village into the future. An active transport hub will allow cyclists and pedestrians to easily and safely move through the village and create a vibrant, cohesive community with improved health and lifestyle outcomes. This will also attract new visitors to the village, enhancing tourism and business opportunities.

Roads and Maritime is seeking feedback about how we can improve Murrumbateman village for pedestrians and cyclists.

Share your feedback at barton.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au

Intersection upgrades

- Work on the Hillview Drive intersection is complete, improving traffic flow with changes to the turning lane
- Work is expected to start in early 2020 at Gooda Creek Road and Vallencia Drive to make accessing the highway safer and more efficient. Bus stops will also be improved at these locations
- Vallencia Drive is the most complex intersection upgrade in the project. Designs are in development to improve congestion on the highway approaching Vallencia Drive from Canberra.



Planning for the future

Our team wants to create and maintain a safe, efficient and reliable transport system for the Barton Highway corridor. We have prepared a strategic business case which looks at future population growth, transport needs and outlines planning priorities.

It sets out the potential stages for full duplication of the highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman in a way that will best support the growth of the region – big picture visions for the future.

Duplication from ACT border towards Murrumbateman

Preparing the environmental assessment

Roads and Maritime Services takes its responsibility to the environment and legislation seriously and is actively working on the review of environmental factors (REF) which includes flora and fauna studies and heritage assessments within the initial duplication area.

We have reviewed several specialist reports as part of the assessment and will be releasing the findings to the public in the near future.

These findings will be available on our webpage.

We will also host information kiosks in Yass and Murrumbateman to answer any questions from the public.



Upgrading the Barton Highway will better support regional connections

Culture and heritage

Our team has been developing the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report with nominated Aboriginal cultural knowledge holders and our registered Aboriginal parties to survey, report and record Aboriginal sites and places of significance.

In addition, an Aboriginal archaeological test program has been completed at various sites to determine whether further studies, investigations and consultation will be required. We are ensuring impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage are identified and managed appropriately before any construction work starts.

Meet the Golden Sun Moth

Investigations are continuing into the endangered Golden Sun Moth which has been located along the Barton Highway.

Did you know?

- Our survey is following the flying season of the male (November and December annually)
- Males only fly in bright sunshine, from about 10am to 2pm
- Adulthood is short-lived (one to four days)
- The moths do not feed as they have no functional mouth and the larvae are thought to feed on the roots of wallaby grasses
- Males spend their entire adult life patrolling the grassland in search of females
- Once mated, the females spend their time laying eggs at the bases of grass tussocks.

Roads and Maritime will continue to study flora and fauna along the Barton Highway and carry out necessary biodiversity measures.



We will include suitable mitigation measures for the Golden Sun Moth in our REF

Property

Roads and Maritime is continuing discussions with landowners impacted by the Barton Highway upgrade. Property acquisition is under way and we will contact you directly if we need to enter your property. For more information about property issues contact **1800 931 250**.

Registration of interest

The registration of interest was announced on 28 October 2019 and is the first stage of the contract process to be considered for a shortlist to tender for the construction contract. The NSW Government is calling for registrations of interest from industry, to design and construct the highway duplication from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman. We are expecting to award the tender in the second quarter of 2020.

Design

The concept design for the Barton Highway has been refined to deliver a balance of engineering, safety, environment and community outcomes.

Through the design process, Roads and Maritime has:

- considered community feedback provided throughout the development of the project
- ensured the design is consistent with the criteria and principles in the project's Environmental Impact Statement
- ensured the project's approval conditions have been met.

Community consultation

Roads and Maritime is committed to its customers and we promise we will listen and take action, consult and collaborate, make your safety our priority and keep you informed.

We will continue discussions with Yass Valley Council and local stakeholders to ensure the best results for the Barton Highway upgrade.

We welcome your feedback on **1800 931 250**.

Barton Highway upgrade



KEY

-  **Duplication**
Proposed start of duplication of the Barton Highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman
-  **Safety work**
Barrier improvements, shoulder widening, vegetation clearing, upgraded signage and line marking complete
-  **Pedestrian and cyclist safety**
Plans to improve access and safety in Murrumbateman are under way
-  **Bus stop locations**
We will be improving bus stop locations along the Barton Highway for safer journeys
-  **Electronic messaging**
Electronic message signs will inform drivers of delays, change of conditions and provide fog warning for safer travel
-  **Intersection upgrades**
Hillview Drive upgrade complete. Vallencia Drive and Gooda Creek Road improvements in 2020 to provide safer and easier access to the Barton Highway
-  **CCTV**
CCTV installation to provide real time traffic data to help monitor and manage traffic conditions

What are the next steps?

In the next six months:

- the project team will consult with the community on pedestrian and cycling access in Murrumbateman village
- develop safer bus stop access along the Barton Highway for school students, bus drivers and road users
- talk to the community about plans to improve Vallencia Drive and Gooda Creek Road and complete intersection improvements for safer journeys
- start installing electronic messaging to improve road safety and journey planning by keeping motorists informed in real-time
- present the results of the initial duplication REF for public feedback
- continue the registration of interest process
- evaluate tenders for award of contract to design and construct the initial duplicated section of highway
- start detailed design in preparation for duplicating the Barton Highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman in conjunction with the selected contractor and Barton Highway Alliance.

Contact us

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

-  1800 931 250 (toll free)
-  barton.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au
-  rms.nsw.gov.au/barton
-  PO Box 484
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

 If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 931 250.



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