



Australian Government

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**



# Barton Highway safety upgrades

## Project update

Roads and Maritime Services | October 2018

**The Australian and NSW governments are providing \$100 million (\$50 million each) over four years to upgrade the Barton Highway. The Australian Government has committed a further \$100 million, subject to the completion of the strategic business case which will guide future investment priorities. The upgrade will improve journey reliability, ease congestion, improve driver safety and boost freight productivity. The funding is being used to carry out the short term investment priorities nominated in the Barton Highway Improvement Strategy. This now includes duplicating the highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman.**



Aerial view of the Barton Highway

The Australian and NSW Governments recognise the strategic importance of the Barton Highway in the National Land Transport Network connecting the National Highway (Hume Highway) to the Nation's capital, Canberra. The duplication of this important road will improve safety, travel times and reliability

for motorists. Whilst this important upgrade is being delivered, Roads and Maritime Services has identified a number of immediate safety upgrades to improve this busy corridor. This Project Update details a package of works proposed to be carried out on the corridor.

Package	Action
1	Duplication of the Barton Highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman
2	Concept design and environmental assessment for future duplication of the Barton Highway
3	Develop strategic business case for future duplication of the whole length of the Barton Highway
4	<p><b>Safety work:</b></p> <p>4a. Improving clear zones (including installing safety barrier)</p> <p>4b. Improving bus stop locations</p> <p>4c. Installing Intelligent Transport Systems</p> <p>4d. Improving linemarking and signage</p> <p>4e. Improving access for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders in Murrumbateman village</p> <p>4f. Upgrading intersections</p> <p>4g. Road safety behavioural campaigns</p>

## Package 1

### Duplication of the Barton Highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman

Over the past few months we have been carrying out field investigations to prepare the concept road design. Below is a snapshot of some of the key investigations.

#### Geotechnical and survey investigations

These investigations have helped us identify and understand the type of soil and rock along the Barton Highway and the depth of groundwater. Some of the geotechnical activities include:

- Detailed mapping and photography of the ground
- Drilling small boreholes to record geological ground conditions and analysing rock samples
- Installing ground water monitoring wells at selected boreholes
- Digging test pits with excavators to understand soil type and then refilling these test pits.

We have also carried out surveys in the Package 1 area to mark land boundaries and identify the shape and feature of the land.

#### Biodiversity assessments

Environmental assessments, including flora and fauna studies, have helped the project team identify plant and animal species along the Barton Highway. Our ecologists examined vegetation along the highway and identified the critically endangered Box-Gum Woodland near Hall. We are now considering how we can minimise our impact on the woodlands through our road design or by environmental offsets. The ecologists will be carrying out more flora and fauna studies in Spring.

#### Noise assessments

Acoustics engineers placed noise monitors at five locations in the Package 1 area to measure the existing noise on the Barton Highway. This data will help predict the noise levels expected when the new road is opened to traffic.

Where noise is likely to exceed target noise levels, we consider noise mitigation measures such as barriers, walls and mounds or architectural treatments to sensitive buildings.

When the project is finished and opened to traffic, we carry out additional noise and traffic modelling to check if the road complies with our noise guidelines. If noise levels are found to exceed criteria used for project approval, further consultation is carried out with affected noise-sensitive receivers and additional measures may be applied.

#### Heritage assessments

An important part of the project has been to identify Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal heritage items of significance in the area. Our archaeologist and heritage specialist have carried out 'walk throughs' to identify and record historical artefacts of value to the local community such as Wattle Park Church and its local heritage significance.

These and other investigations will help in the development of the concept road design.

We thank you for your patience during this important work. We will keep you informed of future investigations.

#### Next steps

Work is continuing to finish the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for Package 1. The REF will consider the environmental impacts of the concept road design and how we will minimise or mitigate these impacts.

The REF is an opportunity for community members to review the various investigation reports that have been carried out and provide comment. We will address the community's comments in a submissions report. We will inform the community when the REF is released and how to provide comment.

### **Tender assessment and award of contract**

Roads and Maritime Services, on behalf of the NSW Government, is seeking Registrations of Interest from industry to design and construct Package 1.

Shortlisted contractors enter into a competitive tender process to demonstrate innovation to maximise the length of duplication and deliver value for money outcomes, without compromising on safety.

The contract is expected to be awarded in early 2019. Subject to all environmental approvals being received construction is expected to start in late 2019.

## **Package 2**

### **Concept planning and environmental assessment for future duplication of the Barton Highway**

Investigations are also under way for the concept planning and environmental assessments for Package 2. Some of these investigations take place on private property. We will contact landowners to organise access to their properties when needed.

## **Package 3**

### **Strategic business case for future duplication of the whole length of the Barton Highway**

The strategic business case for the Barton Highway will provide a staging and prioritisation strategy for future duplication that will guide future investment.

## **Package 4**

### **Safety work**

#### **Improving clear zones, delineation and signage**

Tree trimming, installation of safety barriers and new signage have been completed. Work to flatten and widen the road shoulders has also recently been completed.

Upcoming work will involve removing some mature trees and replacing stormwater drainage structures to continue to improve clear zone areas along the highway.

### **Improving bus stop locations**

We are continuing to review bus stop locations to determine options for improvements, including relocation.

### **Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)**

We are investing in traffic monitoring devices, closed circuit television (CCTV) and variable message signs (VMS) at strategic locations to inform of changed traffic conditions affecting travel time, variability, road conditions, and road closures in a timely manner.

This involves completing a feasibility study to identify suitable locations and to consider, environment, property, power, communications and constructability.

Initially we will install permanent variable message signs at either end of the Barton Highway to help inform motorists of changed traffic conditions. This work is currently being developed.

### **Improving access for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders in Murrumbateman village**

We are currently working with Yass Valley Council to investigate options for improving safety for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders in Murrumbateman.

### **Intersection upgrades**

We will upgrade the intersections at Hillview Drive, Valencia Drive and Gooda Creek Road as part of safety works. Concept plans are currently being developed with construction starting in 2019. Nanima Road intersection will be upgraded as part of Package 1.



Wattle Park Church has been recorded as a historical artefact of value to the local community

## Road safety campaigns

Public education campaigns targeting road worker safety and speeding were rolled out between April and June 2018 using billboards, radio and social media. The Animals on Country Roads radio campaign also ran during June 2018.

Other opportunities are being investigated to promote road safety messages that address specific issues on the Barton Highway identified through crash data analysis.

## Project progress

Package	Status
1 Concept design for duplication	★
1 Survey, geotechnical and utility investigations	★
1 Environmental assessment	★
2 Survey, geotechnical and utility investigations	★
3 Reviewing draft strategic business case	✱
4a Improving road shoulders	✓
4a Tree trimming	✓
4b Review of locations and stakeholder engagement	★
4c Concept development	✱
4e Investigating improvement options	✱
4f Concept design and cost estimates	✱
4g Road safety behavioural campaigns (round one)	✓

✱ Started    ★ Ongoing    ✓ Complete

## Community consultation

In the past couple of months, members of the project team visited the Murrumbateman Village Market and the Yass Community Market. This was a great opportunity to talk to the community and answer lots of questions about the packages of work.

Frequently Asked Questions are available on the project website. We will be at the **Murrumbateman Field Days** to talk more about the project.

Come and visit us:

- **When:** Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 October 2018
- **Where:** Murrumbateman Field Days, 19 East Street, Murrumbateman
- **Time:** Drop by anytime between 8am and 4pm.



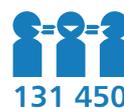
The project team visited the Murrumbateman Village Market in July 2018

## Contact us:

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. If you would like to receive email updates on the project, please email: [barton.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:barton.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au) and we will include you in our distribution group. You can also follow us on Facebook at NSWRoads.

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

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October 2018  
RMS. 18.1035

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