

Frequently asked questions

Proposed safety improvements along Big River Way between Glenugie and Tyndale

As part of the NSW Government's Saving Lives on Country Roads program we are proposing a number of safety improvements on the old Pacific Highway, now known as Big River Way, between Glenugie and Tyndale.

The NSW Government is investing up to \$20 million over the next three years to deliver a number of road safety improvements on Big River Way, between Glenugie and Tyndale. This significant investment will also include rebuilding sections of the road surface which have been damaged, to provide a smoother travel journey.

What are the key benefits for the project?

- Improving road safety by reducing crashes and the resulting fatalities and serious injuries
- Intersection improvements will deliver safer turning movements
- Widening road shoulders and improving road width and surface
- Improving pedestrian safety through Ulmarra

Will the Big River Way safety improvements make it safer for cyclists?

Yes, safety for cyclists will be improved by widening the road and reduced traffic volumes using the road, due to the new Pacific Highway.

Will an upgrade of rest area facilities at McPhillips Creek and Dinjerra Road be included in this project?

The existing rest area facilities will be maintained.

Are any improvements planned to address flooding issues at Alipou Creek, north of Swan Creek or Coldstream River?

In the event of flooding, similar patterns to what is already happening during a flood event will still occur. A high level bypass is provided via Centenary Drive at Clarenza, and alternative access will also be via the Eight Mile Lane interchange on the new highway.

During a flood or emergency event, the new local road network will mean there will be a significant reduction in traffic being diverted off Big River Way onto the Summerland Way. In the past, diverting traffic off Big River Way (old Pacific Highway) has caused significant traffic congestion in Grafton, Casino and Lismore along with significantly longer travel journeys to avoid the impacted areas.

Will the existing speed limits be changed as a result of this project?

Speed limits will be reviewed as part of the three year program to determine final proposed speed limits along Big River Way. Transport for NSW will continue to monitor conditions and make changes where required.

How will bus safety be improved?

Reduced traffic numbers will significantly improve safety for buses using the existing network. During the development of the proposal we will be working with bus companies to understand how they use the road and if required, improve any pull over areas.

Is this work being done to allow bigger, heavier trucks to use the road?

No, the prediction is that heavy vehicle volumes will reduce from over 2500 per day to around 500. Some works will be done to maintain the networks ability to provide for transport of freight in line with State-wide policies.

Are any properties going to be acquired as part of the construction of this program of work?

No.

Why has the intersection of Centenary Drive (north) with Big River Way not been included in the first three years of this program?

The new Pacific Highway bypass of this section will significantly reduce the number of vehicles travelling on the Big River Way and Centenary Drive which will improve safety at this intersection. A number of safety treatments have already taken place and future opportunities are being considered as part of the ongoing Safer Assets Strategy.

Why are existing overtaking opportunities being reduced?

There will be less heavy vehicles on the road when the bypass opens and the width gained by removing an overtaking lane can be used to install a widened median, which will significantly improve road safety by reducing the risk of head on collisions. The wide median will allow for future median safety barriers to be installed. There will still be many overtaking opportunities on the Big River Way from the retained overtaking lanes.

How will community feedback be considered on the proposed safety improvements before work begins?

We want to consider the communities feedback on the proposal prior to finalising the overall program of improvements. Comments will be sought during a three week feedback period.

We will also work closely with landowners that have impacts to the way they access the highway to minimise these impacts.

How will the safety of pedestrians in Ulmarra, including children accessing buses and using the school crossing, be improved by this project?

A safety barrier is being provided adjacent to southbound travel lane between King Street and Coldstream Street in Ulmarra to shield a pedestrian walkway.

What is happening with Eight Mile Lane access for heavy vehicles over 19 metres from the north?

Access to Grafton from the new Pacific Highway is provided via Glenugie or Tyndale interchanges.

Southbound motorists can travel via the Tyndale interchange north of Grafton or the Glenugie interchange on the new highway to the south. It is likely that motorists will choose to access Grafton via the Big River Way as this is the quickest and shortest route. While some southbound motorists may choose to access via the Eight Mile Lane interchange, this would add 12 minutes additional travel time, and 14 kilometres extra length to the journey.

Vehicles greater than 19 metres are restricted from using the Glenugie (north) interchange as Eight Mile Lane is not currently a designated B-double route. B-doubles will need to use the Glenugie (south), or Tyndale interchanges when travelling to and from Grafton.

We have considered this issue, including a number of discussions with the local transport industry and Council. It has been determined that the use of Eight Mile Lane will be monitored following the opening of the upgrade, to assist in providing a greater understanding of how this section of road will be used.

While work is being carried out on Big River Way over the next three years, we will continue to monitor this section of road and consider any opportunities to improve road safety in this area.

Will a low noise pavement be used along any of this section of highway?

No, the road surface will be similar to existing pavements along the road network. With a reduction in heavy and light vehicles using this road network following the opening of the new Pacific Highway nearby residents to Big River Way will likely notice a decrease in noise.

Who can I speak with about my change of address now the road name has changed to Big River Way?

Clarence Valley Council recently provided new address details to all residents affected by a change of address. As part of this process council also provides the information to Australia Post, Australian Electoral Commission, Australian Taxation Office and emergency services.

Residents will need to share new address information with family, friends and other providers such as financial institutions, telephone service providers and other subscriber services. Help is available for residents online at www.service.nsw.gov.au/moving-house or by contacting Service NSW on 13 77 88.

Please contact Clarence Valley Council if you have any questions on your change of address.

How do I provide my feedback?

We are seeking your feedback on the proposed improvements to Big River Way between Glenugie to Tyndale. You can provide feedback via:

Post: Big River Way Glenugie to Tyndale - proposed safety improvements

PO Box 576, Grafton NSW 2460

Email: grafton.regional.office@rms.nsw.gov.au

For more information about the project visit: <https://www.nswroads.work/bigriverway>



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