



Frequently Asked Questions

Princes Highway upgrade – Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay

Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay upgrade

Transport for NSW is delivering safer and more reliable journeys on the South Coast by progressing with planning and design of the proposed upgrade of the Princes Highway upgrade between Burrill Lake and Batemans Bay.

What is happening?

The Australian and NSW Governments have announced \$1.5 billion towards upgrading the Princes Highway between Nowra and the Victorian border. The planning for an upgrade of the Princes Highway between Burrill Lake and Batemans Bay project is a short term priority identified in the Princes Highway strategic roadmap; a 20 year plan to deliver a safe, reliable, efficient and connected transport network.

Why is a highway upgrade needed?

A proposed upgrade of the Princes Highway between Burrill Lake and Batemans Bay would deliver a more resilient transport network, improve safety, ease traffic congestion and grow regional economies.

The upgrade would address the 86 crashes, including 2 fatal crashes and 18 serious injury crashes on this section of highway in the five years 2014 to 2018.

What are the objectives of the project?

The project objectives were developed with consideration of the Princes Highway upgrade program as well as the key outcomes for the Princes Highway upgrade between Burrill Lake and Batemans Bay. The project objectives include:

- Improve safety for all transport users
- Support pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users
- Grow regional economies including tourism and freight
- Improve resilience
- Reduce congestion
- Better connect regional centres

Will the upgrade include the full duplication of the Princes Highway between Burrill Lake and Batemans Bay?

The strategic investigation and design of the upgrade has not been determined.

AECOM Australia Pty Ltd have been appointed work with Transport to undertake the strategic investigation and design phase of the project. Planning will include reviewing existing data and carrying out additional studies to help inform detailed planning options for this project.

Will there be property acquisitions and will I be affected?

Some properties and businesses may be impacted by the project. We will be in contact with property owners and tenants who may be directly affected. We will work closely with them and provide the necessary support throughout the project.

When will I know if my property will be acquired?

More information on what properties would be required and when acquisition would be required will be available when the concept design and environmental assessment are displayed, following consultation with all property owners.

When will work start?

Timeframes for the project have not been finalised.

Preliminary investigations have commenced and the outcome of this work will be used to identify a preferred strategic corridor. The community will be kept informed of project milestones..

How will local access (to and from the Princes Highway) be impacted by the proposed upgrade?

During the strategic investigation and design phase, we will identify local access points and consider opportunities for how access could be maintained during the construction and when the proposed upgrade is open to traffic.

Some changes to how transport users, residents and businesses currently access the Princes Highway may be required for the highway upgrade and to improve road safety and these changes will be further investigated during the next design stage. More information on local road and property access will be available during display of the concept design and environmental assessment, including consultation with property owners.

Transport has also identified potential major intersections along this stretch of the highway, and the treatments/types for each intersection will be determined as the project progresses.

Transport for NSW will continue to work with emergency services providers to ensure the highway responds effectively during emergencies and major events.

How did Transport consider Burrill Lake and Lake Tabourie when developing the Milton Ulladulla bypass?

Transport invited community feedback on the gazetted Milton Ulladulla bypass corridor in the Shoalhaven City Council Local Environmental Plan (Shoalhaven LEP) in March and April 2020. Feedback included concern that the gazetted corridor did not bypass suburbs of Burrill Lake, Lake Tabourie and further southern townships.

Following this feedback, Transport assessed a number of strategic corridor options located further west of Milton and Ulladulla that included bypasses of Burrill Lake and Lake Tabourie. These options were assessed and found to be less effective in reducing overall traffic volumes on the Princes Highway through bypassed town centres, including during

peak holiday periods. The bypass corridors were constrained by a number of key environmental features including Burrill Lake and Meroo National Park.

The western corridors provided limited opportunities to maintain connectivity to existing local roads and therefore reduce access to current and future land uses, including businesses.

The lack of potential connections to local roads would also make these western corridor options less effective in reducing freight volumes within town centres, limiting potential benefits to improve amenity and liveability in these areas.

The preferred strategic option for Milton Ulladulla bypass was displayed for community feedback from Wednesday 25 November 2020 to Sunday 14 February 2021. This feedback is being considered and will inform the design for the project moving forward. A consultation report will be released to inform how feedback was considered for the Milton Ulladulla bypass and other Princes Highway upgrade projects.

While the shortlisted corridor options that included a bypass connection point south of Burrill Lake and Lake Tabourie were not identified as the preferred strategic corridor option, further work is planned to understand the future needs and performance of the Princes Highway south of the preferred strategic corridor of the Milton Ulladulla bypass. This work will be part of the Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay upgrade project.

Transport will continue to consider community feedback as we progress with the Princes Highway upgrade program. The liveability, health and attractiveness of townships south of the preferred strategic corridor option for the Milton Ulladulla bypass will be considered as we further develop plans to improve the safety and efficiency of the Princes Highway between Nowra and the Victorian border.

Does the Burrill Lake Bridge need to be upgraded?

Transport is carrying out further work to understand the future needs and performance of the existing highway south of the preferred strategic corridor option as part of the Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay upgrade project. The potential need for future upgrades to the highway, including Burrill Lake Bridge, will be assessed as part of this project.

The Burrill Lake Bridge does have the potential for additional lane capacity if future traffic demand requires it.

How do we consider the liveability of communities as we develop projects?

The Princes Highway upgrades 20 year plan is built on five key goals: safety, resilience, sustainability, liveability and connectivity.

All identified projects as part of the upgrade would aim to deliver a transport corridor that:

- supports communities by connecting and contributing to providing attractive and healthy places to live, work and play
- has good physical and digital connectivity and accessibility, for access to opportunity and services.

More information on how the project team considered the liveability and connectivity objectives of the upgrade program will be available as the project progresses.

How does the proposed upgrade between Burrill Lake and Batemans Bay align with other nearby projects like the Milton Ulladulla bypass and Batemans Bay Bridge replacement project?

Transport is carrying out work to understand the future needs and performance of the existing highway south of the preferred strategic corridor bypass option. Additional traffic data was collected over the NSW Summer Holiday period, including monitoring of traffic volumes and intersection queue lengths, to inform future planning.

Transport will consult closely with local communities as the work progresses. More information on the upgrades between Burrill Lake and Batemans Bay will be on display for community feedback in 2021.

How are environmental impacts considered during the planning of the project?

We will carry out an environmental assessment of the proposed project area. The environmental assessment will include a more detailed description of the proposal and design features, impacts and benefits and includes studies and investigation about biodiversity, Aboriginal cultural heritage, non-Aboriginal heritage, property and land use, visual impact, traffic and transport, socio-economic benefits and impacts of noise and vibration, flooding and hydrology, and the consideration of cumulative impacts. The environmental assessment will identify the mitigation measures required to manage these impacts during the design, construction and operational phases of the project.

Will there be property acquisitions and will I be affected?

Any impacts to property is yet to be determined. More information about possible impacts will be known once the strategic investigation and design has been completed. We will be in contact with property owners and tenants who may be directly affected. We will work closely with them and provide the necessary support throughout the project.

Will there be noise impacts associated with the highway upgrade?

The strategic investigation and design of the upgrade has not been determined. Possible noise impacts will be looked at as part of the environmental assessment which is a future stage of planning for the project.

What are the next steps of the project?

The strategic investigation and design phase of this project will include reviewing existing data, carrying out additional traffic, and environmental studies. A range of strategic options

will be identified which will be available for community feedback. More detail on the strategic options and timeframes will be shared as the project progresses.

How can I find out more about the project?

More information about the project can be found on the project web page at:

nswroads.work/burrilllake-batemansbayupgrade

How will we be kept informed about the project?

You can subscribe to project updates and tell us how you want to be contacted in the future on our webpage at nswroads.work/burrilllake-batemansbayupgrade. We will keep the community updated as we progress.

For more information or to speak to a member of the project team please call 1800 719 759 or email princeshighway@transport.nsw.gov.au.