



Proposed Goonoo Goonoo Road (New England Highway) duplication – Tamworth

Concept design consultation summary

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

In 2019 the NSW Government committed \$3 million to plan the duplication of Goonoo Goonoo Road (New England Highway) between Jack Smyth Drive and Greg Norman Drive in Tamworth. Since then, Transport for NSW has been working with Tamworth City Council to develop a concept design for the proposed upgrade.

The project aims to:

- Increase capacity along Goonoo Goonoo Road
- Improve safety
- Provide a road network which supports development and facilitates access to regional growth areas

There is currently no funding to build the project, however Transport for NSW will be progressing the project so it is ready to build if funding becomes available.

1.2 The proposal

A proposed concept design was released for community feedback in March 2021.

The design included:

- Duplicating Goonoo Goonoo Road between Greg Norman Drive and Calala Lane to provide two lanes in each direction
- Replacing roundabout with traffic signals at the Goonoo Goonoo Road/Calala Lane intersection
- Installing a roundabout at the Goonoo Goonoo Road/Craigends Lane intersection
- Upgrading the intersection of Goonoo Goonoo Road and The Ringers Road
- Installing a 'seagull' intersection at Goonoo Goonoo Road/Greg Norman Drive
- Completing the shared user path between Greg Norman Drive and Wilburtree Street
- Installing a footpath on the eastern side of Goonoo Goonoo Road from Calala Lane to just north of Craigends Lane
- Road widening, pavement reconstruction and a central median.

This report provides a summary of the feedback received during the consultation period.

2 Community consultation

2.1 Consultation objectives

We consulted with the community and key stakeholders on the proposed concept design to:

- Inform the community and stakeholders of the proposal and possible impacts
- Seek feedback on the proposal and issues of concern for consideration in developing the detailed design and method of construction. The feedback will be incorporated into the environmental impact assessment.
- Build a database of interested and concerned community members to continue engagement with during the proposal's development.

2.2 How consultation was done

Community consultation on the proposed concept design was open for feedback from Monday, 8 March to Wednesday, 31 March 2021.

The Tamworth community was informed about the release of the proposed concept design in a number of ways, including:

- Have your say, community update – about 9,000 copies were distributed to South Tamworth and surrounding areas via Australia Post unaddressed mail.
- Social media – Facebook posts promoting the release of the concept design and request for feedback ran throughout the feedback period.
- Media – a media release was distributed and local media published articles about the proposed concept design
- Internet – a web page was created providing information on the concept design
- Online survey – an online survey was created for stakeholders to provide comments on the proposal
- Meetings – face-to-face meetings were held with a number of stakeholders, including business and property owners directly impacted by the proposed concept design.

3 Consultation summary

3.1 Overview

Comments on the proposed concept design officially closed on Wednesday, 31 March 2021. However, some submissions were received after this date and were included in the official totals. A total of 275 submissions were received about a range of issues. Some submissions included multiple comments and issues.

The total amount of feedback received via each method is outlined in the table below:

Table 1

Method	Number
Online survey responses	200
Emails received	50
Telephone calls received	13
Meetings held	10
Post	2

The feedback received in formal submissions raised a number of issues including comments on the various intersection treatments, the need to upgrade the Goonoo Goonoo Road/Scott Road/Vera Street roundabout, provisions for parking, pedestrians, cyclists and heavy vehicles.

This feedback will help inform the next steps of the project.

3.2 Online survey

The online survey consisted of two questions and a comment box.

The questions asked if respondents supported the project and if they supported the proposed concept design. The comment box allowed them to provide their direct thoughts on the project and proposed concept design.

One hundred and ninety-eight people responded to the question, 'Do you support the project?', while 196 people answered the question, 'Do you support the concept design?'

The results for each question are outlined in the tables below.

Table 2

Do you support the project?

Strongly support	90	45.5%
Support	58	29.3%
Neutral	21	10.6%
Do not support	15	7.6%
Strongly do not support	14	7.1%

Table 3

Do you support the proposed concept design?

Strongly support	50	25.5%
Support	60	30.6%
Neutral	36	18.4%
Do not support	34	17.3%
Strongly do not support	16	8.2%

4 Issues raised

The main issues raised in the feedback and Transport's response to these issues are outlined below.

Issue category	Number of submissions	Issues raised	Our response
Goonoo Goonoo Rd/Scott Rd/Vera St roundabout	54	Need to upgrade this intersection to traffic lights	<p>Upgrading the Goonoo Goonoo Road/Scott Road/Vera Street roundabout to traffic lights is not included in the scope of work for the Goonoo Goonoo Road duplication project.</p> <p>Transport is working closely with Council on transport planning initiatives for Tamworth. This includes developing a traffic model that would help to identify and prioritise future transport needs.</p> <p>The Scotts Road/Vera Street intersection is still identified as a priority location for Tamworth and Transport will continue to investigate opportunities to upgrade this location.</p>
Calala Lane roundabout	31	Keep the roundabout, do not upgrade to traffic lights	Traffic lights best meet the future needs and levels of service of this intersection when considering anticipated population and traffic growth during the next 20 years.
	21	Upgrade the roundabout to traffic lights	Traffic lights also provide better safety for cyclists and enable safe crossing points for pedestrians.

Other intersection treatments	16	Concerns with the roundabout at Craigends Lane and no right turn out of The Ringers Road	<p>Installing a roundabout at Craigends Lane caters for the future development on Goonoo Goonoo Road.</p> <p>A roundabout at Craigends Lane provides the best balance between impacts on existing developed land and achieving intersection efficiency requirements. The Craigends Lane location is best suited for U-turn manoeuvres due to the need to access businesses and for southbound travel.</p> <p>Motorists travelling south from The Ringers Road can travel north to the Craigends Lane roundabout and conduct a U-turn, which is safer than trying to turn right across four lanes of traffic.</p> <p>A 'seagull' intersection, similar to the one proposed for Greg Norman Drive, was considered but discounted. This was because restricting right turns from The Ringers Road and utilising the proposed roundabout at Craigends Lane was considered to provide better safety outcomes without negatively impacting traffic efficiency.</p> <p>Emergency vehicles will be able to turn right out of The Ringers Road</p>
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Safety	15	Removing vegetation from roundabouts and ensuring adequate lighting at intersections	<p>The design will include street lighting, signage and the appropriate landscaping to comply with all safety requirements.</p> <p>Street lighting will be determined based on the road environment and surrounding uses. The spacing and positioning of the streetlight design will comply with relevant guidelines and standards.</p>
Parking	8	Provisions for cars and heavy vehicles so people can access businesses along Goonoo Goonoo Road	<p>We are currently investigating what facilities can be provided for heavy vehicle parking and will include further information as the project progresses.</p> <p>We will continue to liaise with businesses near Calala Lane regarding parking requirements.</p>
Pedestrians	7	Ensuring adequate provisions for pedestrians	<p>We will ensure the 2.5m wide shared path will extend from Wilburtree Street to Greg Norman Drive.</p> <p>The current concept design includes a 1.5m wide footpath on the eastern side of Goonoo Goonoo Rd from Calala Lane extending 400m to the south.</p> <p>We are considering incorporating pedestrian refuges at strategic locations to ensure pedestrians can safely cross Goonoo Goonoo Road.</p>

Cyclists	6	Provision of on-road cycling facilities to ensure safety for cyclists	The proposed duplication of Goonoo Goonoo Road proposal includes 2.5m sealed shoulders. On-road cyclists choosing not to travel in the traffic lanes can travel in the shoulders.
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4.1 Recommendations and next steps

We have considered all submissions and will ensure that the ongoing development of the project continues as outlined in our responses to the issues raised.

We will ensure issues highlighted by stakeholders and the community that fall outside the scope of this project will be passed to the relevant areas of Transport to consider.

We will work closely with local residents and stakeholders in relation to the potential impacts of this project. We will do this by:

- Informing the community and stakeholders of consultation outcomes and the next steps for the proposal via publication of this summary report
- Continuing to carry out communication activities as the project progresses and informing the community through the Transport for NSW website and project notifications.

We will continue to keep the community informed and liaise directly with residents and businesses impacted by the project.

Contact

For further information on the project please contact us at:

Phone – 1800 653 092

Email – region.north@transport.nsw.gov.au

Post – PO Box 576, Grafton NSW 2460

5 Appendix 1 – Project update

6 Appendix 2 – Online survey
