



Transport for NSW Frequently asked questions

27 APRIL 2020

Braidwood safety improvements

What are the details of the project?

To improve the safety of motorists on the Kings Highway guardrail will be installed on the northern approach to Braidwood to protect motorists from the current avenue of poplar trees.

New poplar trees will also be planted behind the existing avenue of trees to maintain the current aesthetic once the existing trees die or are removed.

Why we are doing the project?

The current avenue of trees is located very close to the travel lane at this location and there is a long crash history here.

This treatment aims to protect motorists from runoff road crashes, where vehicles veer off the road and collide with something such as a tree or culvert (large drainage pipe).

Why are we using guardrail?

Guardrail safety barrier protects motorists from roadside hazards and helps reduce the severity of a crash. Early investigations into safety upgrades in this location included options to remove the trees, however through consultation, we discovered there was strong community support for allowing the avenue to remain.

Advancements in roadside barrier technology have reduced the amount of deflection required behind the guardrail meaning the majority of the current trees can be safely protected by barrier without having to be removed.

What safety improvements have already been implemented in this location?

In March 2013, the speed limit within the project area was reduced from 100 km/h to 80 km/h in response to the number of fatal and serious injury crashes. This was an initial solution to improve road safety while also allowing the trees to remain.

Why are the trees important?

In 1936, after the depression had passed, the trees were planted to celebrate the 25th year of King George V's reign and are a heritage feature of the town of Braidwood.

Consultation in 2011 noted the community highly valued the avenue of poplars decorating the entrances of Braidwood. The trees have been assessed by the Office of Environment and Heritage as a heritage feature of Braidwood to be maintained.

What has Transport done to preserve the trees?

The original golden poplar trees are aging and gaps in the avenue have appeared as they reach the end of their lives. Planting a new avenue of trees behind the existing avenue will ensure new, healthy trees, will be present once the current trees have all died and/or been removed.

The new trees have been grown from cuttings from the existing Golden Poplars to ensure the historical significance of the original trees lives on.

Who will maintain the trees after planting?

In October 2013 a Tree Management Plan was developed with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (formally Palerang Council) which included an agreement that Council would accept ongoing, long-term maintenance of the trees after they had been established.

Will the community be involved in the planting?

Due to Covid-19, Transport is following the government directive to reduce any opportunity for the spread of this virus. As such, we will not be involving the community in the tree planting.

The window of opportunity for the tree planting during autumn, so the planting will proceed in the next month.

Transport for NSW understands that the planting of the polar trees is significant to the community and will provide footage of the planting on the project website.

When will the work start?

Work is due to start in mid May 2020, weather pending.