



# Frequently asked questions

## Princes Highway upgrade – Milton Ulladulla bypass

### Milton Ulladulla bypass

February 2021

#### What is happening on the Milton Ulladulla bypass project?

The NSW Government announced the Milton Ulladulla bypass in 2019 and the project has been identified as a short term infrastructure priority in the 20 year roadmap for the Princes Highway upgrade.

Since then, Transport has consulted with the community on the gazetted bypass option in Shoalhaven City Council's Local Environmental Plan. A common theme in the consultation was that western options should be considered.

Following the consultation, a range of bypass corridors were then identified including bypass corridors that extended beyond Milton and Ulladulla and west of Burrill Lake.

Transport undertook an extensive planning and development process including a value management workshop to assess all options. This process involved key local, state and federal government specialists who assessed a range of design options against criteria before making a group recommendation for a preferred strategic corridor option.

In November 2020, Transport identified the preferred strategic corridor as one that broadly aligns with the existing bypass corridor in the LEP.

#### Why is a Milton Ulladulla bypass needed?

The proposed Milton Ulladulla bypass aims to substantially reduce travel time and congestion, particularly in holiday periods. It would improve road safety after 111 crashes were recorded on the highway within the Milton and Ulladulla area in a five-year period to 2018. The bypass would enhance the liveability within the Milton and Ulladulla town centres and enhance the appeal of the area.

The Princes Highway runs through the Milton and Ulladulla town centres and is a vital connection between towns and regional centres and is an important link for freight, interregional business, tourism and leisure travel. The aim of the proposal is to upgrade the Princes Highway to provide a bypass to deliver safer and more reliable journeys on the South Coast.

## 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 needs for a Milton Ulladulla bypass. The project objectives include:

- Improve network safety for all transport modes and customers
- Improve transport network efficiency and connectivity to support regional economic development, tourism and freight
- Improve transport network resilience
- Enhance the amenity and liveability of Milton and Ulladulla and connected communities.

## What does the preferred strategic corridor for the Milton Ulladulla bypass look like?

The preferred strategic corridor for the Milton Ulladulla bypass broadly aligns with the location of the corridor in the Shoalhaven LEP and is still in the early stages of development.

The preferred strategic corridor for the Milton Ulladulla bypass passes west of Milton and travels in a south-eastern direction towards Ulladulla, then south adjacent to the outer residential areas of Ulladulla. The corridor passes through the vegetated area to the east of Kings Point before connecting back into the Princes Highway between Ulladulla and Burrill Lake.

Community feedback will be considered and further investigations carried out to refine the potential location of connections from the bypass to the existing highway. Accesses to the local road network are not confirmed and subject to further planning.

## How was the preferred strategic corridor chosen?

A number of bypass options were developed to get an understanding of the potential benefits of bypassing numerous town centres. This followed community feedback on the Shoalhaven LEP, requesting more options to be looked at. Options assessed included:

- Bypassing Milton and Ulladulla
- Extending the bypass to include Milton, Ulladulla and Burrill Lake
- Further extending the bypass to include Lake Tabourie.

Following a value management workshop held in 2020, a bypass corridor broadly aligning with the Shoalhaven LEP was found to best achieve the project objectives.

## **Why was this option chosen?**

When compared to the further western corridors, the preferred strategic corridor provides greater opportunity to connect to town centres. This would enable more traffic to use the bypass during both weekday and peak holiday periods making day to day journeys in and around town centres safer and more reliable. Better links between the bypass and town improves the resilience of the transport network, keeping people moving during hazards and emergencies

Traffic modelling found that by 2041, the preferred bypass option would remove about 55% of weekday traffic out of Milton and about 30% of weekday traffic out of Ulladulla. This is twice more than the traffic reduction that would be achieved by further western corridor options.

The preferred strategic option would have lower impacts on environmentally sensitive areas, with no impact to Meroo National Park.

## **What's the process from here?**

A high volume of feedback has been received during the consultation period for the Milton Ulladulla bypass project, with over 2000 submissions received across the online survey, email, post/written feedback and over the phone. All feedback will be considered by Transport for NSW and a community consultation report will be prepared to address the issues raised by the community during the consultation period.

Community feedback will be used to inform further investigations to develop the project and address the key issues raised.

During the 2020/21 summer holiday period through to February 2021, further traffic data collection has been carried out including monitoring of traffic volumes, intersection queue lengths and road use to inform future planning for the Milton Ulladulla bypass and Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay upgrade projects. We are also progressing with investigations for the Milton Ulladulla bypass project and carrying out field studies to better understand some of the key environmental and geotechnical features in the project study area that will inform our planning.

Transport will also undertake further investigations to inform the concept design and environmental assessment phase of the proposal.

There will be more opportunities for the community and stakeholders to provide feedback as the project progresses.

## What community consultation has been carried out?

Transport invited community feedback on the gazetted bypass corridor in the Shoalhaven City Council Local Environmental Plan (Shoalhaven LEP) in March and April 2020. A total of 692 submissions were received from individuals, community groups and government representatives via emails, phone calls and comments on the online consultation map.

A Community Consultation report was released in August 2020 summarising this feedback at <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/01documents/milton-ulladulla-bypass/milton-ulladulla-bypass-community-consultation-report-2020-08.pdf>.

A common issue raised throughout the consultation was concern that the gazetted corridor did not bypass suburbs of Burrill Lake, Lake Tabourie and further southern townships.

In response, Transport assessed a number of strategic corridor options located further west of Milton and Ulladulla that included bypasses of Burrill Lake and Lake Tabourie.

A range of targeted consultations were carried out with key stakeholders to identify the preferred option, including a value management workshop.

The western 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.

In late 2020, Transport consulted with community and stakeholders on the preferred strategic option. Consultation methods included stakeholder briefings and meetings with community groups, a Facebook Live session, emails, notifications sent to all homes in the Milton and Ulladulla district, print and digital advertising and door knocking of nearby properties.

Feedback was accepted via online survey, email, phone or printed feedback forms.

A consultation report is being prepared with more information on the community and stakeholder feedback over this period.

## 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 the project webpage. 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](mailto:princeshighway@transport.nsw.gov.au).