

New England Highway Tenterfield Heavy Vehicle Bypass



MARCH 2015

PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR - COMMUNITY UPDATE



In this community update

- Process for selecting the preferred route
- Why the preferred route was chosen
- Next steps for the project.

The orange corridor has been selected as the preferred route for the heavy vehicle bypass of the New England Highway at Tenterfield. This project is part of a \$6 million commitment from the Australian Government for the planning of the heavy vehicle bypass at Tenterfield and an upgrade at Bolivia Hill.

This update shows the preferred route for the bypass, outlines the reasons why it was selected and describes the next steps for the project. The Preferred Route Report (March 2015) is now available on the Roads and Maritime Services website or by contacting the project team.

Background

New England Highway is a major interstate freight route between Newcastle and Queensland and provides an alternative route to the Pacific Highway. The highway currently passes through the centre of Tenterfield which causes traffic and safety issues from the mix of heavy vehicle and through traffic with local trips and pedestrian activity. There is no alternative route suitable for heavy vehicles in or around Tenterfield.

Process for selecting the preferred route

Roads and Maritime has worked with the community and stakeholders to identify a preferred route for a heavy vehicle bypass at Tenterfield.

In May 2014 four shortlisted route corridors were announced for community comment.

A total of 102 submissions were received and the Community Consultation report is available on the Roads and Maritime website.

Following receipt of community comments and carrying out further technical investigations on the four shortlisted corridors, a value management workshop was held in August 2014. Participants included community members, the local Aboriginal land council, Tenterfield Chamber of Commerce, Tenterfield Shire Council, government agencies and technical experts. The workshop found that the orange corridor best meets the project objectives and should be considered further.

The report from the value management workshop is available on the Roads and Maritime website.

The preferred route was identified following consideration of the technical investigations, community feedback and the outcomes of the value management workshop.

Orange corridor - the preferred route

The orange corridor starts just north of Tenterfield Creek bridge on the southern edge of town, crosses the railway line north of Currys Gap Creek, runs west of the railway corridor and rejoins the existing New England Highway near Cowper Street, at the north of Tenterfield.

Bridges would be built at Douglas Street and Sunnyside Loop Road to maintain connectivity to the western side of Tenterfield.

Why was the preferred route chosen?

The preferred route was chosen as it provides the best overall balance between functional, environmental, social and economic considerations. The orange corridor was selected based on the following factors:

- The route starts and ends close to the town centre, making it more likely to encourage light vehicles to travel into the centre of Tenterfield minimising the potential loss of passing trade
- Has the least environmental impact, in particular avoids the Currys Gap State conservation area
- Has no direct impact on heritage areas, such as the Railway Museum
- Provides the best value for money
- Minimises private land acquisition
- Provides a western vista of the town, highlighting the railway museum complex and other parts of Tenterfield not currently seen from the existing highway.

Next steps

Further refinement of the corridor will take place in consultation with Council and affected landowners.

Following the consultation period, the road alignment will be included in Tenterfield Shire Council's Local Environmental Plan so that the land can be reserved for future road construction and provide planning certainty for Council and the community.

At this time no funding has been provided for further planning or building of the heavy vehicle bypass. Comments on the preferred route will be considered as part of any future development of the project. We will communicate any future developments on this project with the community of Tenterfield.

Public display

The Preferred Route Report, along with the Value Management Workshop and Community Consultation reports are available on the Roads and Maritime website and in the following locations:

- Tenterfield Post Office
- Tenterfield Shire Council
- Tenterfield Motor Registry.

Have your say

The project team will be available at community drop-in sessions to answer questions and receive input about the preferred route.

Where: Memorial Hall and Multi Purpose Centre (RSL Pavilion), Molesworth Street, Tenterfield

When: Tuesday 31 March 2015, 4pm – 7pm
Wednesday 1 April 2015, 9am – 12pm

Alternatively you can provide feedback in writing, either to the email or the postal address below.

Please provide your feedback by **Friday 24 April 2015**.

Contact us

For information on the Tenterfield Heavy Vehicle Bypass contact the project team at:

Phone: **02 6640 1300**

Email: **Reception.Grafton.RO@rms.nsw.gov.au**

Web: **rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/northern-nsw/tenterfield-heavy-vehicle-bypass/index.html**

Write to: **Roads and Maritime Services, 76 Victoria Street, Grafton NSW 2460**

Roads and Maritime Services

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Tenterfield heavy vehicle bypass - Preferred route corridor

