



Transport for NSW

Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran

Review of Environmental Factors and Concept Design display
Community Consultation Report | September 2021



The Newell Highway, south of Coonabarabran



Neilson Park and Rest Area, located in the Coonabarabran Town Centre

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1. Executive summary

The New South Wales Government is investing \$11.5 million for planning of an upgrade of the Newell Highway at Coonabarabran. This work is part of the \$700 million Newell Highway Upgrade Program.

This report is a summary of the community and stakeholder consultation carried out by Transport for NSW between 30 November 2020 and 29 January 2021. Consultation focused on the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and concept design for the Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran.

Transport invited community and stakeholder submissions for the REF and feedback on the proposed design. During the display period between 30 November 2020 and 29 January 2021, Transport received a total of 28 responses from the community and stakeholders.

Key issues raised include:

- Social and business impacts
- Intersection upgrades
- Traffic volumes and road conditions
- Property and land use
- Safety
- Options, design and proposal scope
- Urban amenity.

In determining the REF for the project, Transport committed to responding to each submission and has prepared a Submissions Report summarising the key issues.



Coonabarabran town centre

2. Introduction

This report is a summary of the community and stakeholder consultation carried out by Transport between 30 November 2020 and 29 January 2021. Consultation focused on the REF and concept design for the Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran.

2.1 Background

The New South Wales Government is investing \$11.5 million for planning of an upgrade of the Newell Highway at Coonabarabran. This work is part of the \$700 million Newell Highway Upgrade Program.

Transport proposes to build a new highway bypass at Coonabarabran, NSW. The proposal would include a new road about eight kilometres long, east of the existing Newell Highway alignment which currently runs through the Coonabarabran town centre.

The proposal is located in the Warrumbungle Local Government Area (LGA) about 120 kilometres north-east of Dubbo and 335 kilometres north-west of Sydney. Refer to Figure 1 for the location of the proposal.

Further information about these projects can be found on the project website at **nswroads.work/coonabarabran**.

2.2 Project features

The Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran includes the following features:

- A new two-lane, two-way road, about eight kilometres long to the east of Coonabarabran, between the Newell Highway and Oxley Highway with a posted speed limit of 110 kilometres per hour
- Changes to the intersection arrangement of the Newell Highway and Oxley Highway to the north of Coonabarabran
- Intersections and local road adjustments at Purlewaugh Road and River Road
- A bridge crossing of the Castlereagh River
- Two stock culverts; one under the highway just south of Purlewaugh Road and a private stock access under the highway between River Road and Chinamans Gully
- Property acquisitions and adjustments as well as changes to some property accesses
- Drainage adjustments and utility relocations
- Temporary ancillary facilities during construction including water quality controls, site offices and stockpile sites.

The work is expected to take about two years to complete. There is currently no funding for construction.

2. Introduction continued

Figure 1 Location of proposal



2.3 Need for the proposal

The Newell Highway is the longest highway in NSW, running 1,058 kilometres through the state and providing an essential road link for freight travelling between Queensland and Victoria. The highway also forms an essential regional traffic route that links towns and major centres, providing a connection for domestic and export markets for the agricultural industry.

The proposal would improve freight efficiency around Coonabarabran by avoiding the need for heavy vehicles to travel through the Coonabarabran town centre by diverting them onto a bypass.

At present, High Productivity Vehicles (HPVs) are permitted to travel through the town, however this impacts the amenity of the town, local and through traffic movements including travel speed and efficiency. In addition, freight traffic is also expected to increase along the Newell Highway, even with the development of other infrastructure projects across regional NSW such as Inland Rail.

2.4 Proposal objectives

The objectives for the proposal are to:

- Improve travel efficiency for all vehicles, particularly heavy vehicles, through Coonabarabran
- Reduce conflict between freight vehicles, local and through traffic and vulnerable road users
- Improve amenity for the urban commercial area of Coonabarabran.

2.5 Project benefits

The Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran will:



Reduce travel time



Remove about 700 heavy vehicles from the town centre, the majority of which are B-doubles



Improve motorist and pedestrian safety



Improve traffic flow in Coonabarabran, particularly east-west travel



Improve the amenity of the retail district for shoppers, residents, visitors and workers



Reduce heavy vehicle noise and stock-created odour



Remove conflicts between local traffic and heavy vehicles in the CBD.

2. Introduction continued

2.6 Options considered

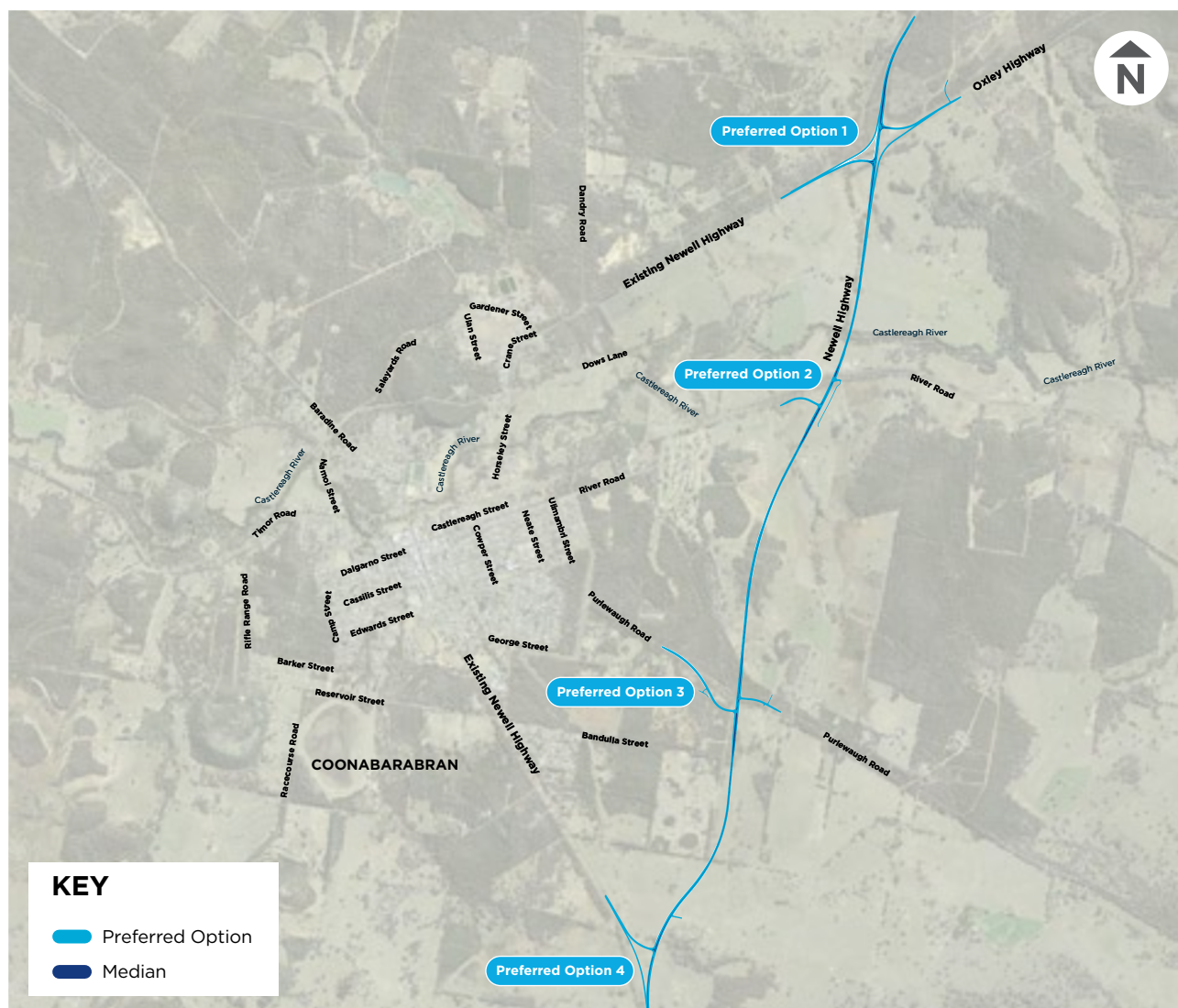
The Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran has been subject to investigation since the early 1990s. Following the release of the Newell Highway Corridor Strategy, investigations for the current proposal started in 2017.

Six preliminary options were developed including a through town option and multiple east and west bypass options. It was then refined to three shortlisted options for concept design development (consisting of a through town option and two easterly bypass options). These three strategic options were displayed and the community were invited to have their say in May 2019. The options were

assessed based on community feedback as well as functionality, environmental impact, socio-economic impact and cost.

A Value Management Workshop was held on 11 July 2019 which recommended the preferred option after considering the issues raised during options assessment as well as community and stakeholder consultation. The preferred option was chosen as it provides the best outcomes for the proposal objectives and key impact criteria. Refer to Figure 2 for map showing preferred option.

Figure 2 Preferred options map



3. Consultation approach

3.1 Consultation objectives

The purpose of the stakeholder and community consultation carried out from 30 November 2020 and 29 January 2021 was to:

- Inform community members and stakeholders about the environmental assessment and concept design for the Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran
- Provide the community with more detailed information and the opportunity to have their say about the design for the Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran
- Provide an update on the Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran proposal to the members of the community and stakeholders
- Build relationships with the Coonabarabran and surrounding communities to minimise and/or understand concerns regarding the project
- Establish relationships with key stakeholder groups with whom Transport will continue to engage with throughout the development and delivery of the Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran
- Provide the community with an opportunity to meet with Transport project teams
- Inform the community about the next steps in the project.

3.2 Consultation method

A number of activities were carried out in the lead-up to, and during the 60-day display period to inform the community and stakeholders about what was happening and to encourage their involvement in the consultation process.

Key activities included community updates, a media release, newspaper advertisement, radio advertisements and social media posts.

A detailed summary of communication and consultation activities is provided in Table 1 and Figure 3.

These activities provided the community with a range of opportunities to learn more about the project, meet the project team and have their say.

Further analysis of the outcomes of the consultation is detailed in Section 4.

During the display period, information was provided via an online information session held via Facebook, where members of the community and stakeholders were able to attend the event, receive general information and ask questions relating to the project.

Transport interacted with about 70 people during the 60-day display period in which 28 formal submissions were received by the project team.

Stakeholders and community members were encouraged to provide feedback, leave comments, and make submissions in person to the project team or via email, mail or phone.

3. Consultation approach

Key stakeholders and the community were able to contact Transport via the communication channels below:

Have your say

Please provide feedback on the REF by **29 January 2021**, by sending your comments to:



1800 741 636



newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au



Po Box 36, Dubbo NSW 2830



Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call the project team on 1800 741 636. The interpreter will then assist you with translation.

These details were provided on communication material.

Transport is committed to receiving feedback from a wide range of groups and community members. In aligning with this commitment and in addition to consultation with the broader community, the following stakeholders were directly consulted:

- Directly and indirectly affected landowners
- Interested local individuals and the wider community
- The Aboriginal community
- Local interest groups
- Warrumbungle Shire Council
- Local Land Services
- Freight industry
- Coonabarabran and District Chamber's of Commerce
- John Holland (Country Rail Network)
- Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC).

The main comments raised during consultation were in reference to:

- Social and business impacts
- Traffic volumes and road conditions
- Intersection treatments
- Property and land use
- Safety
- Options, design and proposal scope
- Urban amenity.

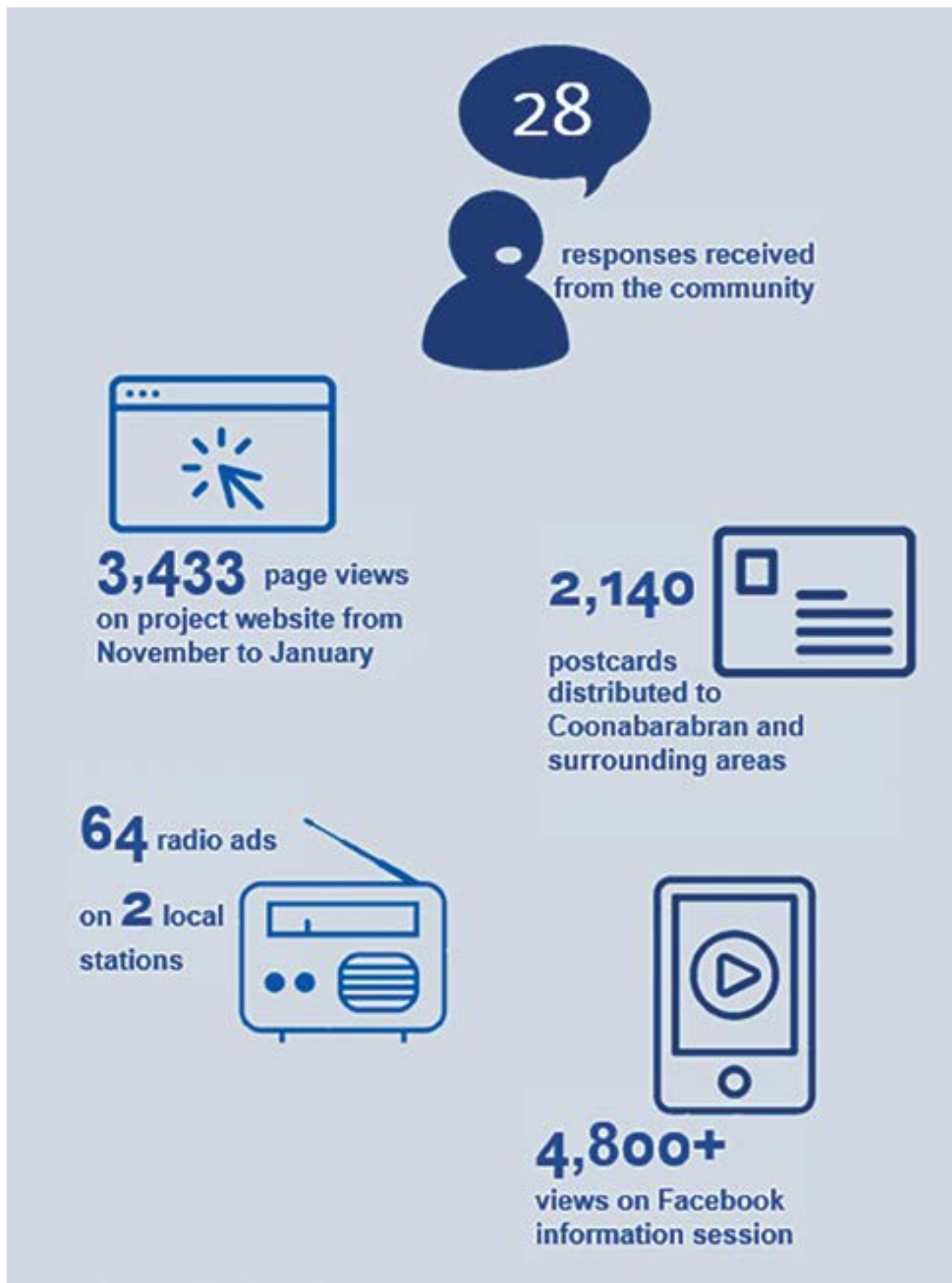
Table 1 Summary of Communication and engagement tools and activities

Tool/Activity	Description
Postcards (Appendix A)	<p>A double-sided postcard provided details of the proposal and included project benefits, location map, REF and concept design displays, next steps, and details on how people could have their say.</p> <p>A total of 2,140 postcards were distributed to communities within the Coonabarabran LGA including, Bugaldie, Napier Lane, Ulamambri, Premier, Ropers Road and Curban (refer to Appendix A for map of distribution area).</p>
Community Update (Appendix C)	<p>A double-sided community update provided details of the proposal and included project benefits, location map, REF and concept design displays, next steps, and details on how people could have their say.</p> <p>Copies of the community update were provided to Council and the local library at the unstaffed display locations.</p>
Radio advertisements (Appendix D)	<p>A 30-second radio advertisement was produced to inform the community about the project and provided details of how they could have their say during the display period before 29 January 2021.</p> <p>The radio advertisement was played on the 2MO and GGG FM stations during the breakfast and drive timeslots, reaching a wide audience. The advertisement was played eight times across eight days for each timeslot.</p>
Newspaper advertisements (Appendix E)	<p>A newspaper advertisement was published in the Coonabarabran Times newspaper.</p> <p>This advertisement provided details of the proposal and included project benefits, location map, REF and concept design displays, next steps, and details on how people could have their say.</p>
e-Newsletter (Appendix F)	<p>Warrumbungle Shire Council included details of the project in their e-Newsletter.</p> <p>The notice was posted in the December 2020 edition of Warrumbungle Shire Council's Community e-Newsletter and reached their readers and subscribers.</p>
Email blast	<p>An email blast was distributed to the freight branch which provided details of the proposal and included project benefits, location map, REF and concept design displays, next steps, and details on how people could have their say.</p>
Facebook (Appendix G)	<p>Facebook posts were created and shared providing information about the project. There was also a Facebook Live event where further information about the project was given to attendees and questions from the community were answered.</p> <p>A total of 19 people attended the live online information session and 105 people expressed interest. After the live event, the video received over 4,800 views, 129 interactions through comments and likes, and seven shares from the original post.</p>

3. Consultation approach

Tool/Activity	Description
Poster (Appendix H)	<p>A poster was created for the REF and concept display for the project. The poster provided information about the project, project benefits, location map, details for the REF and concept design display locations, the next steps for the proposal, and contact details to submit feedback and enquiries.</p> <p>Posters were also used for unstaffed displays at Warrumbungle Shire Council and the Coonabarabran library.</p>
Project Website nswroads.work/ coonabarabran (Appendix I)	<p>The project website was used to provide information about the project and included important documents such as the Community Update, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), REF, media releases, Community Consultation Summary Report (September 2019), and the Preferred Option Report (September 2019).</p> <p>During the 60-day consultation period, there were a total of 3,433 page views, 2,764 of these were considered unique page views as most visits occurred at the start of December with a spike in numbers largely from Facebook. 28.52% of these were also new users.</p> <p>The website also included an animation of the proposed bypass. The short animation was posted on 30 November 2020 and received 1,624 views.</p>
FAQs (Appendix J)	<p>Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) were prepared for the project and included information relating to the project status and timeline, potential impacts and mitigation measures, as well as design features.</p> <p>The FAQs were available for download via the project website.</p>
Media release (Appendix K)	<p>A media release was prepared and distributed to local and regional media. The media release was published in the Coonabarabran Times newspaper and was available on the project website.</p>
Online survey (Appendix L)	<p>Feedback forms for the project were accessible via the project website and all feedback was generated in real time.</p>

Figure 3 Number of attendees and responses



4. Consultation summary

4.1 Overview

Transport received a total of 28 responses across the consultation period.

Submissions and responses were provided by a range of stakeholder groups including council, individual community members, business and property owners, transport operators and interest groups.

A total of 19 people attended the online information session and 105 people expressed interest. After the online information session, the video received over 4,800 views, 129 interactions through comments and likes, and seven shares from the original post.

4.2 Key project issues

Issues identified through the submissions to the Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran project were:

- Social and business impacts
- Traffic and road conditions
- Property and land use
- Safety
- Options, design and proposal scope
- Urban amenity.

A summary of the suggestions, issues and concerns raised in submissions to the Newell Highway Upgrade at Coonabarabran project and Transport's responses are provided in the Submissions Report.

Table 3 Summary of comments and enquiries received via Facebook on the Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran project

Category	Comment (verbatim)	Issue Raised
Impact to local business	But what about the money that will be lost from the truck drivers and the visitors to the town of Coonabarabran by putting in a bypass	Motorists including truck drivers and tourists passing through the town centre of Coonabarabran provide much of the town's income.
	Can we be assured that no conflicting or competitive infrastructure will be built along or at either end of the proposed bypass?	Concern that the proposed bypass will divert traffic away from the town centre and will cause losses in local business.
	What status is your concern or compassion for what impact this will have on making our town a ghost town?	Question about what signage and advertising will be included?
	What plans are there for signage, promotions and advertising for Coonabarabran to be included at the bypass exits? It should be built into the build budget.	

Category	Comment (verbatim)	Issue Raised
Pedestrian, cyclist and road safety	Both the roads, Purelwaugh and River Road, are used frequently by cyclists. Other local roads are unsuitable for all riders. Cyclists will be losing two significant routes as they are incorporated into a highway, something we avoid. How can cyclists be incorporated into the design?	Question as to whether cyclist routes and paths have been incorporated into the design.
	It would be great if there was a cycling lane included in the design	Concern whether safety of all road users has been considered in the design.
	Why is the safety of both locals and everyday road users not incorporated into this bypass. Purlewaugh Rd and River Rd uses must enter the 100 km zone to access Coonabarabran ... would it not be safer for a underpass on these roads?	Question as to whether the speed zone limits will be changed.
	Does this mean all of the highway from Coonabarabran to Gilgandra will be 110 km?	Question as to whether there will be locations for truck drivers to pull over and get food and fuel.
	Will there be a place for truck drivers to pull over to get food and fuel as you can't park near the service station	
Stakeholder and community consultation	Will Transport consult with affected landholders along the route now the plan has been completed? The staggered T-intersections on River and Purlewaugh Roads will have a large impact on residents east of the bypass – has there been any consultation conducted with them in regards to the proposed design? Were bridges in these sections ever considered as an alternative?	Concern about whether consultation has been undertaken with impacted residents.
Construction and employment opportunities	How soon will it get started?	Question to when construction would start, if approved?
	Has this gone to tender yet?	
	Will it be constructed by tier 1 contractor or Transport?	Question concerning potential employment opportunities for contractors during construction.
Project need	Why do you need a bypass?	Question as to why the bypass is needed.

5. Next steps

All submissions received during the display of the REF and concept design have been collated and considered by Transport. A Submissions Report has been prepared that summarises the comments made and Transport's responses.

All feedback received during the display period was assessed and considered.

The REF for the Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran has been determined. The determination of the REF is the confirmation that the project meets all environmental requirements.

This determination allows Transport to start the detailed design as soon as funding is allocated.

There is currently no funding for construction.

Transport will continue to provide updates to and engage with the local community and key stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle.



Newell Highway Oxley Highway intersection

Appendices

Appendix A – Postcard



Transport for NSW

Newell Highway upgrade, Coonabarabran

Review of Environmental Factors
and Concept Display | November 2020

The NSW Government has committed funding to plan for the upgrade of the Newell Highway at Coonabarabran. Transport for NSW (TfNSW) invites you to provide feedback on the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the proposed project.

The project includes planning for a new eight kilometre upgrade, three kilometres to the east of Coonabarabran. It would start near the 100 km/h zone heading into Coonabarabran from the south and re-join the existing highway at the current Oxley and Newell Highway intersection.

Review of Environmental Factors

We have completed the REF for the project and it will be on display from **30 November 2020 to 29 January 2021**. TfNSW encourages you to provide feedback during this time.

As part of the development of this project, consultation has been carried out with Council, landowners, road users, the local community and other key stakeholders. This feedback has been considered during the development of the REF.

The REF explains the methods that would be used to mitigate and manage likely impacts of the upgrade.

Contact us

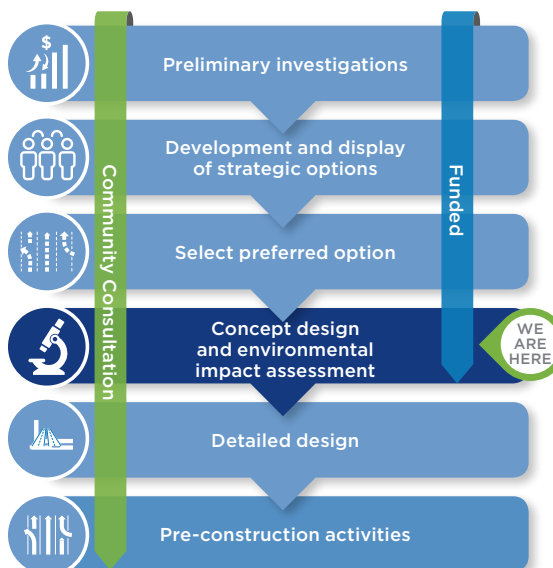
To provide your feedback or for more information, please contact our team on:

- 1800 741 636
- newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au
- nswroads.work/coonabarabran
- PO Box 36, Dubbo NSW 2830

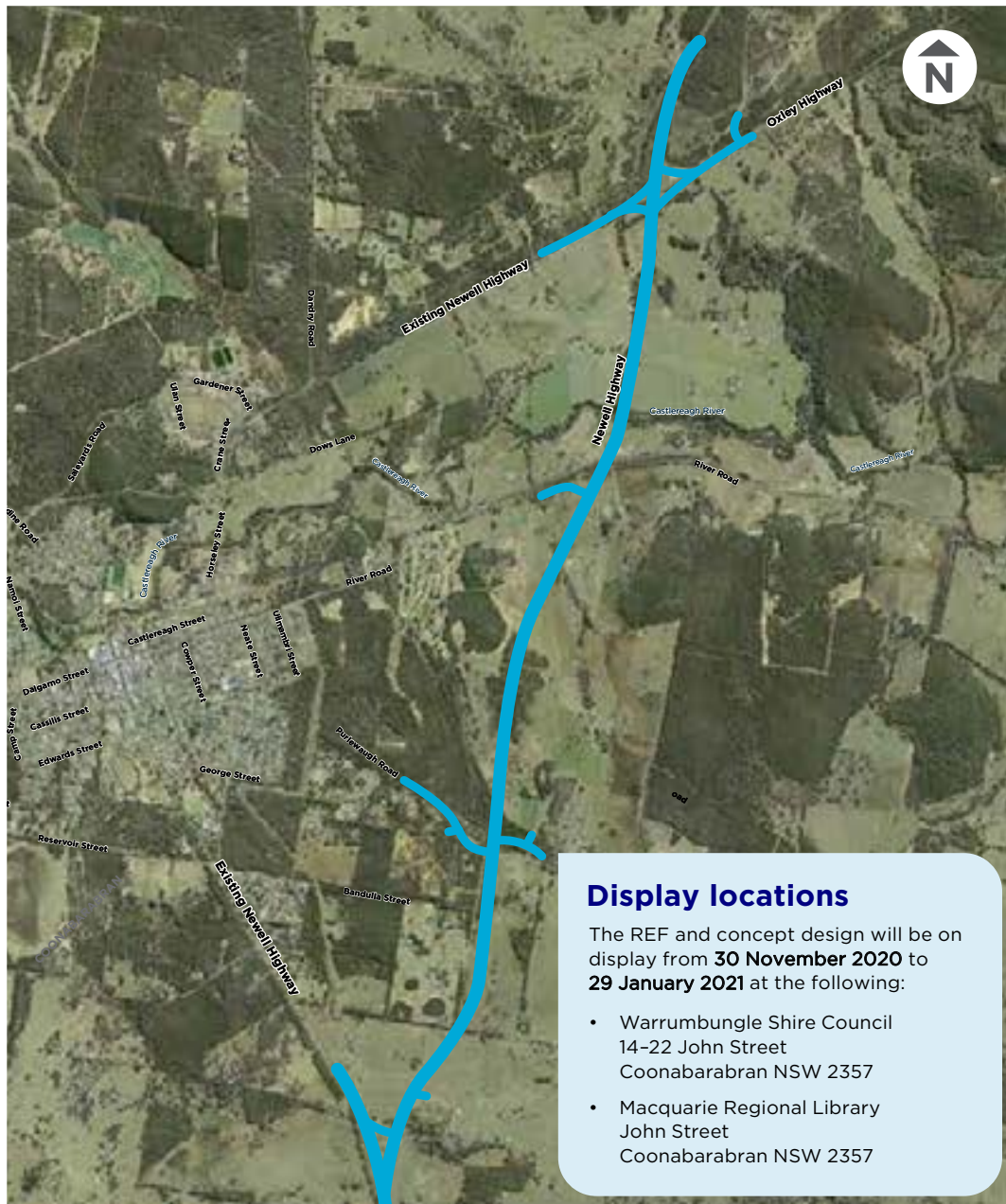
Project benefits

- Reduce travel time
- Remove around 700 heavy vehicles from the town centre, the majority of which are B-doubles
- Improve motorist and pedestrian safety
- Improve traffic flow in Coonabarabran, particularly east-west travel
- Improve the amenity of the retail district for shoppers, residents and workers
- Reduce heavy vehicle noise and stock-created odour
- Remove conflicts between local traffic and heavy vehicles in the CBD.

Next Steps



Map title



Display locations

The REF and concept design will be on display from **30 November 2020** to **29 January 2021** at the following:

- Warrumbungle Shire Council
14-22 John Street
Coonabarabran NSW 2357
- Macquarie Regional Library
John Street
Coonabarabran NSW 2357

Have your say

You are invited to have your say on the Concept Design and Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the Coonabarabran Bypass. The Concept Design and REF will be on display from **30 November 2020** to **29 January 2021**.

20.373

Appendix C – Community update



Transport for NSW

Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran

Review of Environmental Factors and Concept Display
November 2020



Current Newell Highway through Coonabarabran

Background

The NSW Government is planning for an upgrade of the Newell Highway at Coonabarabran. The proposed upgrade includes building a new eight kilometre long upgrade three kilometres to the east of town. The upgrade would reduce travel time and increase safety for road users and pedestrians by removing trucks from local streets as well as reducing noise and air pollution in town.

Key features of the proposal include:

- Construction of an 8km upgrade to the east of town
- Upgrade of the Newell Highway and Oxley Highway intersection
- A new bridge over the Castlereagh River.

Review of Environmental Factors

Transport for NSW has prepared a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to determine the environmental and social impacts of the Coonabarabran upgrade. The REF is now on display for public information and comment.

The REF explains the methods that would be used to mitigate and manage likely impacts of the upgrade.

You are invited to give feedback on the REF by **29 January 2021**.

Benefits

- Reduce travel time
- Remove around 700 heavy vehicles from the town centre, the majority of which are B-doubles
- Improve motorist and pedestrian safety
- Improve traffic flow in Coonabarabran, particularly east-west travel
- Improve the amenity of the retail district for shoppers, residents and workers
- Reduce heavy vehicle noise and stock-created odour
- Remove conflicts between local traffic and heavy vehicles in the CBD.



Neilson Park, Coonabarabran

Display locations

The REF and concept design will be on display from **30 November 2020 to 29 January 2021** at the following:

- Warrumbungle Shire Council
14-22 John Street
Coonabarabran NSW 2357
- Macquarie Regional Library
John Street
Coonabarabran NSW 2357

Online community session

The community is invited to attend an online information session to be held via Facebook on **December 15 at 5.30pm**.

Visit nswroads.work/coonabarabran to register or call **1800 741 636** for more information.

What happens next?

Feedback on the REF and design will be considered and a submission report summarising the comments made will be made available when the REF is finalised.

We will keep the community updated as the project progresses.

Have your say

Please provide feedback on the REF by **29 January 2021**, by sending your comments to:

📞 1800 741 636

@ newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au

✉ PO Box 36, Dubbo NSW 2830



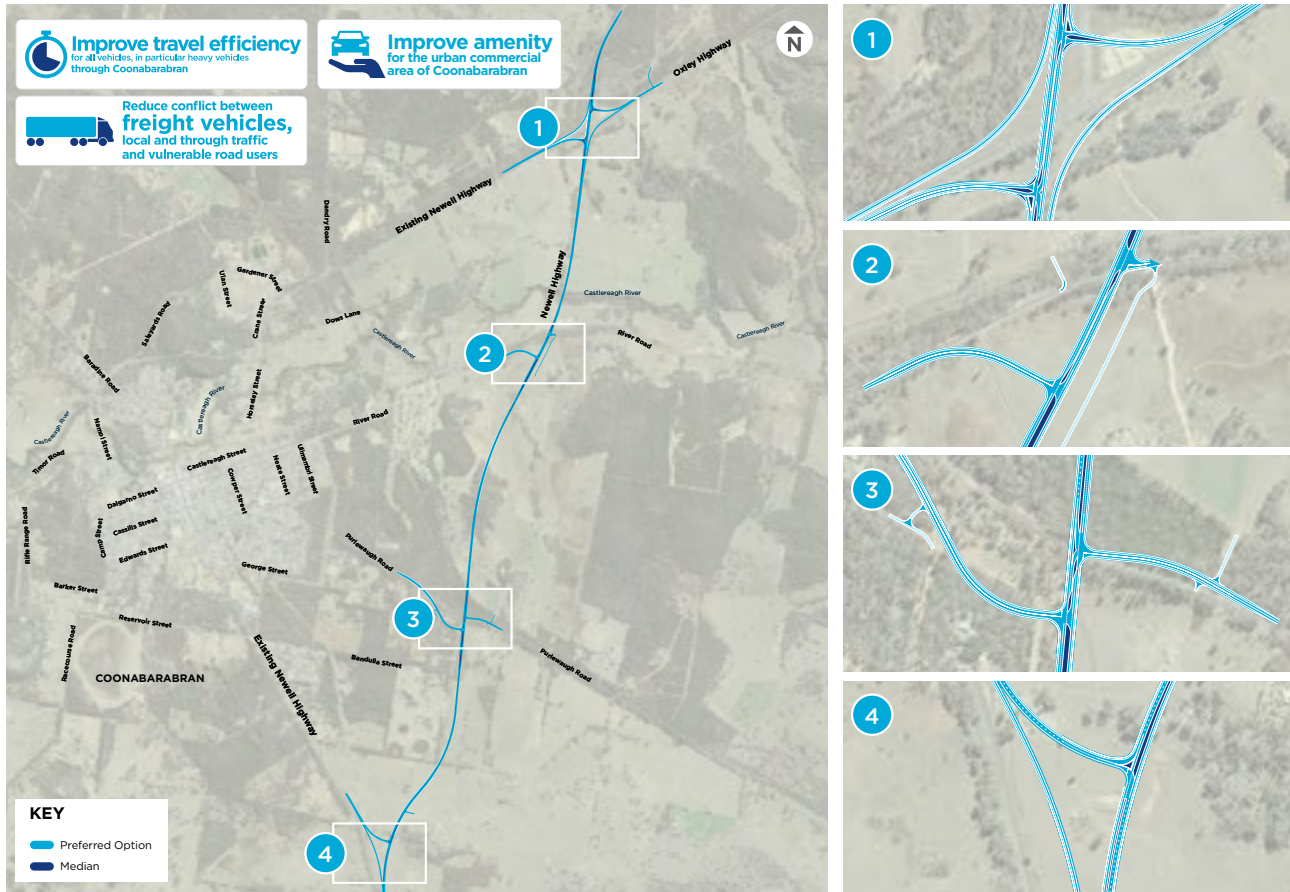
Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call the project team on 1800 741 636. The interpreter will then assist you with translation.



November 2020
20.372

Privacy Transport for NSW ("TfNSW") is subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 ("PPiP Act") which requires that we comply with the Information Privacy Principles set out in the PPiP Act. All information in correspondence is collected for the sole purpose of assisting in the delivery of this project. The information received, including names and addresses of respondents, may be published in subsequent documents unless a clear indication is given in the correspondence that all or part of that information is not to be published. Otherwise Transport for NSW will only disclose your personal information, without your consent, if authorised by the law. Your personal information will be held by Transport for NSW at 27 Argyle Street, Parramatta. You have the right to access and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.

Transport for NSW



Appendix D – Radio advertisement


Radio Script

Have your say on the Review of Environmental Factors for the Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran.

Transport for NSW is planning an upgrade to the Newell Highway, a bypass to the east of Coonabarabran which will allow safer and more efficient movement on the highway and in town. Transport are seeking your feedback on the Review of Environmental Factors for the proposal.

To view and have your say visit nswroads.work/Coonabarabran
You have until twenty ninth January 2021 to give your feedback.

Appendix E – Newspaper advertisement



Transport for NSW

Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran

Transport for NSW is planning an upgrade to the Newell Highway, a bypass to the east of Coonabarabran to improve safety for all road users and freight efficiency.

We are seeking community feedback on the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the proposed upgrade and welcome your comments.

Display locations
The REF report is available to view at:

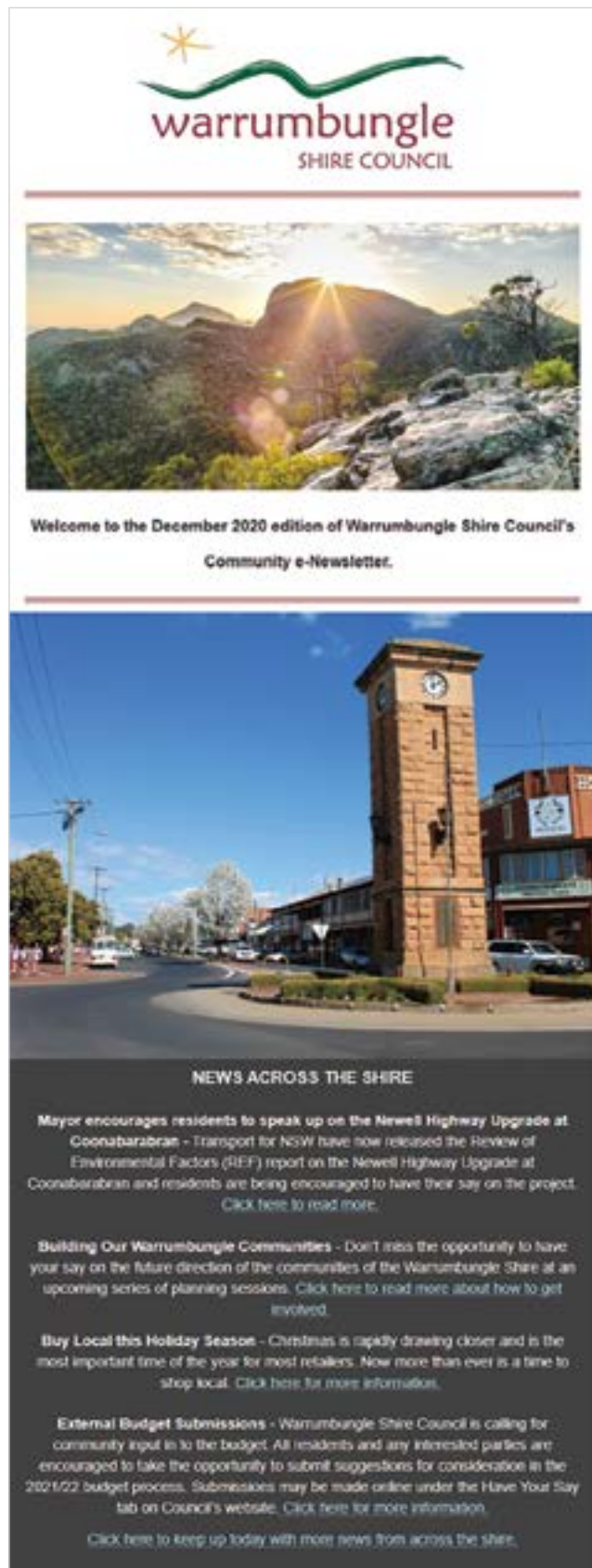
- nswroads.work/coonabarabran
- Warrumbungle Shire Council, 14 – 22 John Street, Coonabarabran NSW
- Coonabarabran Library, 50 John Street, Coonabarabran NSW

How can you give feedback?
Email: newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au
Mail: PO Box 36 Dubbo NSW 2830
Phone: 1800 741 636

Please provide feedback by Friday 29 January 2021

For more information please visit nswroads.work/coonabarabran, email newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au or contact the project information line on 1800 741 636.

Appendix F – Warrumbungle Shire Council Community e-Newsletter



Appendix G – Facebook event post

DEC 15 Coonabarabran Bypass Info Session
Public · Live Video by NSW Roads

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6:30 PM – 8 PM
Real time

Online with Facebook Live

No tickets

The guest list will appear here once the event is published.

Description

Join our Facebook Live to learn more about the Review of Environmental Factors and concept design for the Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran.

For more information, visit our project page at nswroads.work/coonabarabran. To submit your feedback, email newellupgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au or call 1800 741 636.

Watch Video

You can post here once the event is published.

facebook [Sign Up](#)

Events

Events

DEC 15 Coonabarabran Bypass Info Session
Public · Hosted by NSW Roads

Tuesday, 15 December 2020 from 17:30-18:00 UTC+11
about 2 months ago

Online with Facebook Live [Watch Video](#)

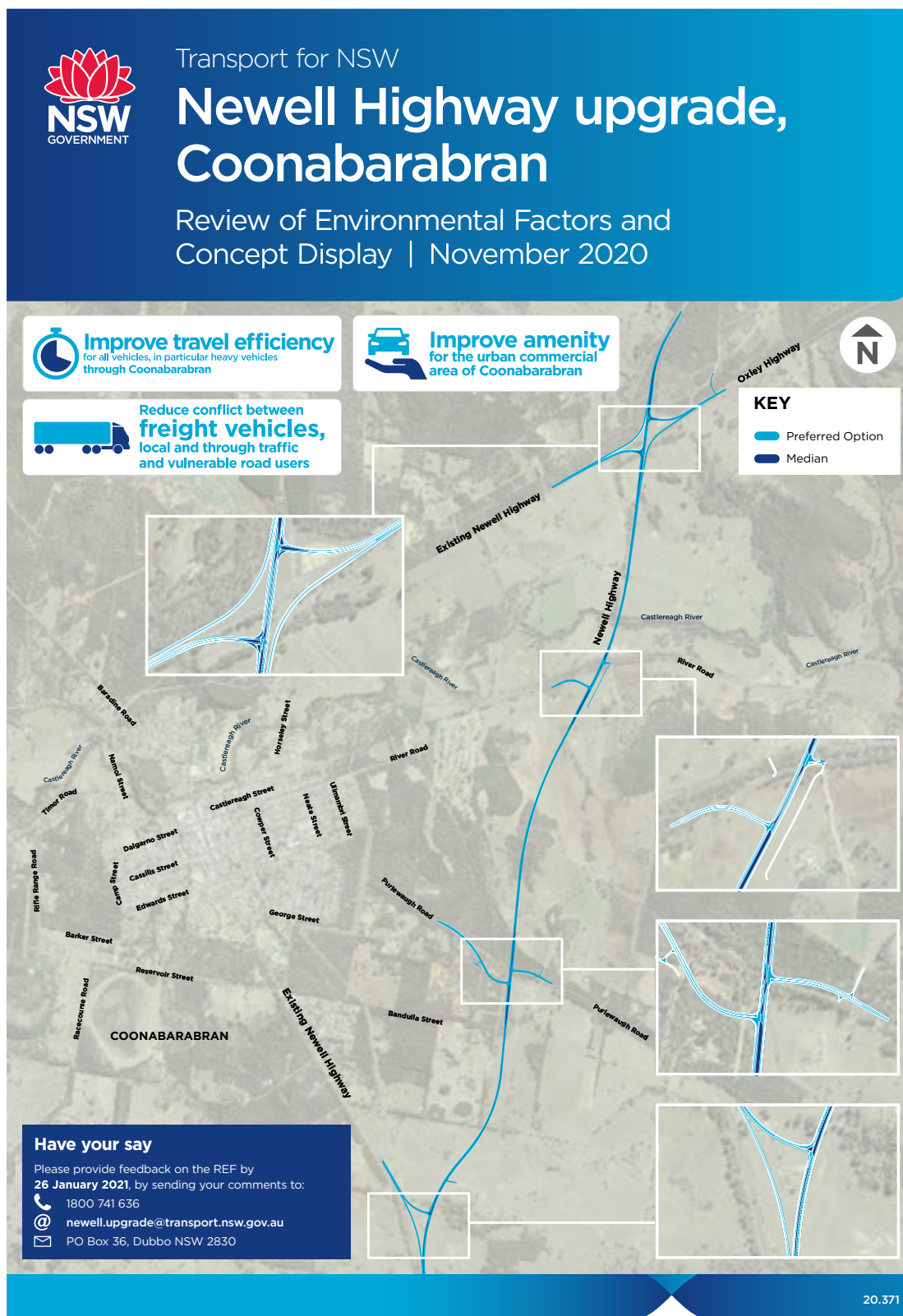
Details

Join our Facebook Live to learn more about the Review of Environmental Factors and concept design for the Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran.

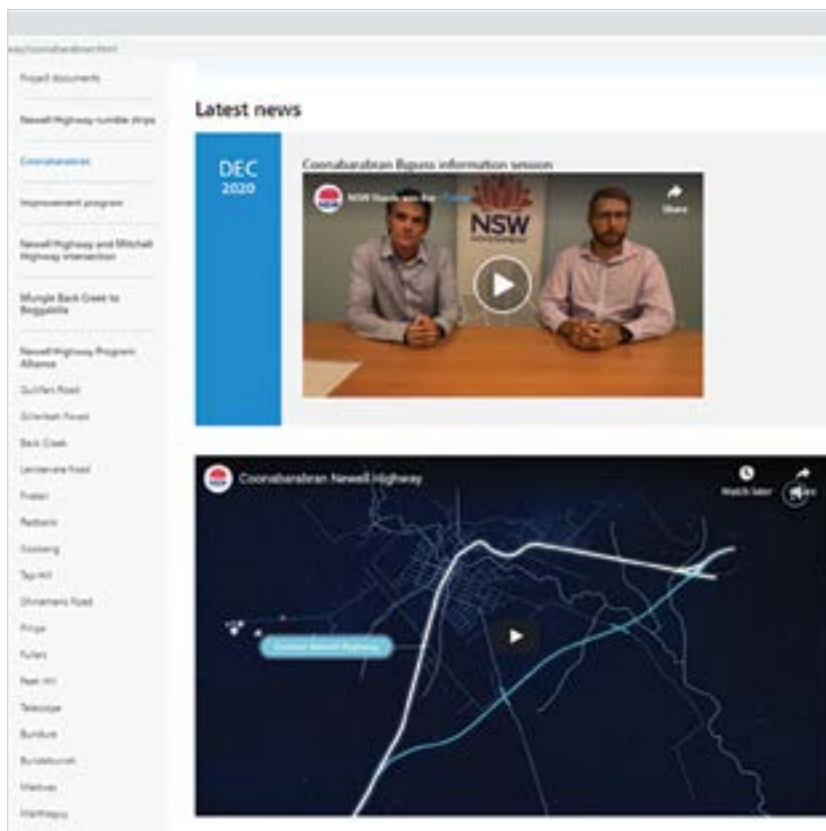
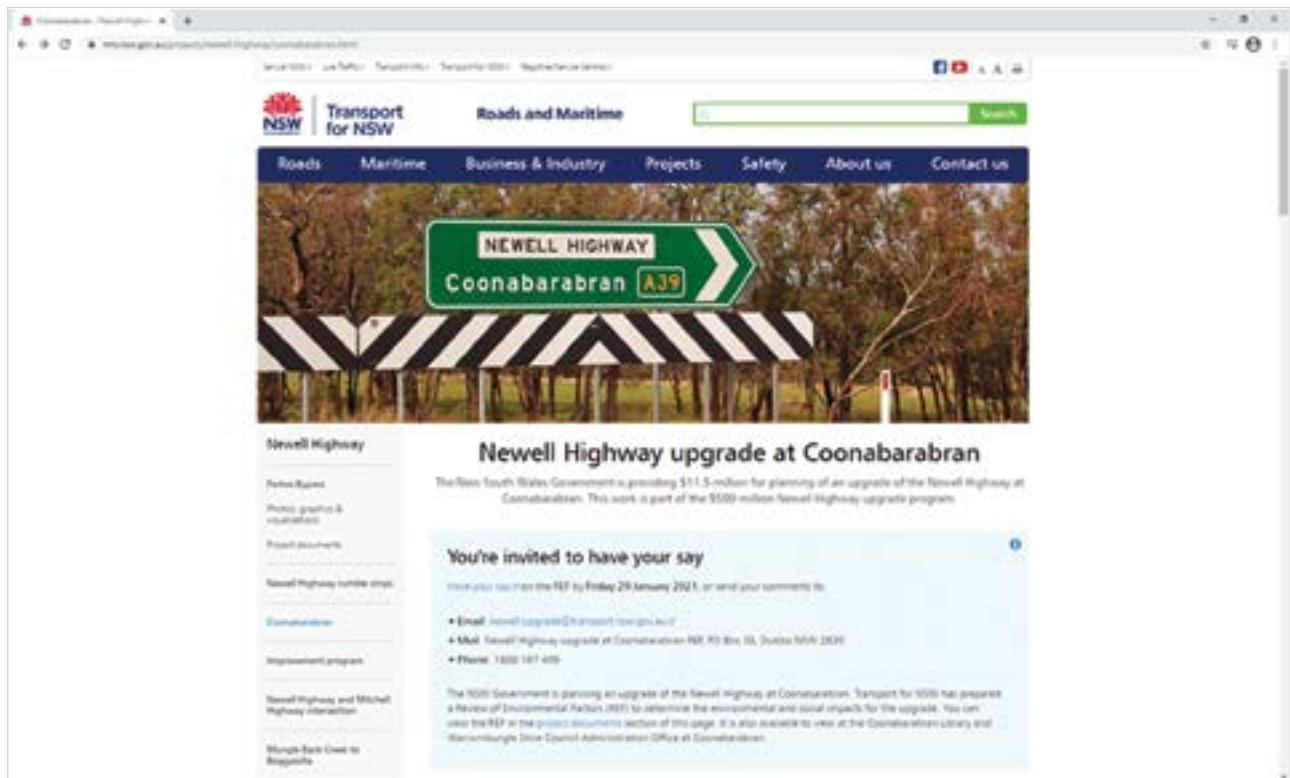
For more information, visit our project page at nswroads.work/coonabarabran. To submit your feedback, email newellupgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au or call 1800 741 636.

Other Online Live video

Appendix H – Poster



Appendix I – Project website



Appendix J – Frequently Asked Questions

Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran, Frequently Asked Questions – November 2020

About the project

What is happening?

The community is invited to have their say on the proposed Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran

The NSW Government is providing \$11.5 million in funding towards planning for a proposed upgrade of the Newell Highway at Coonabarabran. The proposal includes constructing a new highway about eight kilometres long to the east of the existing Newell Highway alignment which runs through Coonabarabran's town centre. The proposal would extend north-south between the Newell Highway and Oxley Highway.

Transport for NSW has developed a concept design and prepared a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to determine the environmental and social impacts of the proposed bypass.

What is a Review of Environmental Factors?

An REF is an environmental assessment that is required as part of the assessment of activities needing approval under NSW legislation. An REF examines the significance of likely environmental impacts of a proposal and the measures required to mitigate any adverse impacts to the environment.

An REF is a publicly available document that provides information on a proposal, including its environmental impacts and mitigation measures.

Why is a bypass being proposed?

- Improve travel efficiency for all vehicles, in particular heavy vehicles through Coonabarabran
- Freight traffic is expected to increase along the Newell Highway

- Reduce conflict between freight vehicles, local and through traffic and vulnerable road users
- Improve amenity for the urban commercial area of Coonabarabran

What are the key features?

The key features of the proposal include:

- Construction of a Bypass
- New bridge over the Castlereagh River
- Newell Highway and Oxley Highway intersection upgrade to give priority to the Newell Highway.

What are the project benefits?

- Increase freight efficiency by improving the heavy vehicle access for PBS3 (a) high productivity vehicles (36.5 metre B-triples and Type 2 Road Trains)
- Improve travel time and reliability
- Reduce trucks traveling through the Coonabarabran town centre
- Improve traffic flow in Coonabarabran
- Improve the amenity of the retail district for shoppers, residents and workers
- Improve safety for motorists and pedestrians
- Reduce heavy vehicle noise and stock-created odour
- Remove conflicts between local traffic and heavy through vehicles.

Information for the community

How can the community provide feedback on the REF?

Transport for NSW will work with the community and stakeholders during the planning of Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran to understand issues and minimise potential impacts.

All community and stakeholder feedback on the project is welcome.

We will liaise directly with property owners impacted by the Newell Highway upgrade, as well as engaging with the broader community and other stakeholders.

What happens next?

Feedback on the REF will be considered and a Submissions Report and Community Consultation Report will be published. We will continue to keep the community updated as the project progresses.

Community information session

Staff from the project team will be available to answer your questions about the project via an online session held on December 15 – please visit “nswroads” on Facebook to register.

If you have questions or would like further information about the project, please contact us via the project’s free-call number 1800 741 636 or via email newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Design consideration

What are the key design considerations for the project?

- Construction of a bypass suitable for high productivity vehicles
- Typical cross section 3.5m lanes, 2.0m shoulder, 1.0m wide centreline, 0.5m verge
- Optimised pavement design for whole of life performance
- Drainage structures suitable ARI 1 in 20
- Bridge structure over the Castlereagh River
- Posted speed limit of 110km/hr, with lower posted speeds where design needs to be optimised for safety
- Minimise direct access to the bypass

- Newell and Oxley Highway intersection upgrade to change priority to the Newell Highway

Newell Highway upgrade and other projects in the region

The NSW Government recognises the importance of the Newell Highway as the economic backbone for freight and livestock transporters, tourism operators, caravanners and holiday makers, emergency services, government, media and business owners. The NSW Government has invested \$500 million into upgrading the Newell Highway.


TfNSW will continue to work with the community and stakeholders, including the region’s producers and agricultural companies, local business, freight and transport providers, to improve efficiency and safety in the region.

Construction

When would construction of the Newell Highway start?

The project is still in the planning stage. No construction timeline has been confirmed.

Appendix K – Media release



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for NSW

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Coonabarabran Bypass a step closer

Coonabarabran Bypass a step closer

3 December 2020

Plans to build an eight-kilometre Newell Highway bypass at Coonabarabran to remove a freight pinch point are a step closer, with the release of the project's environmental assessment and concept design.

NSW Nationals Upper House MP Sam Farraway said the proposed bypass would divert about 700 trucks a day from the centre of town, delivering safer and more efficient journeys for motorists continuing along the bypass.

"Most trucks are B-doubles that currently travel through the centre of town at a reduced speed limit, which means longer travel times for those travelling between Narrabri and Gilgandra," Mr Farraway said.

"The proposed bypass would improve efficiency by allowing regional producers and freight operators to get products to market quicker and driving down transport costs.

"As well as being safer for motorists and pedestrians in the town centre, a bypassed Coonabarabran will also improve the amenity of the retail district, and reduce heavy vehicle noise in town."

Mr Farraway said those interested in the project, including residents and Newell Highway freight industry representatives, were now invited to have their say on the Review of Environmental Factors (REF).

"More than 250 people provided feedback that helped us determine the preferred route to the east of the town," Mr Farraway said.

"The REF explains the methods Transport for NSW are proposing to mitigate and manage likely environmental impacts of the upgrade and we are inviting anyone interested to have a say.

"All feedback received will assist with planning for the bypass and completing the concept design."

The REF will be on display from 30 November 2020 to 29 January 2021 at Warrumbungle Shire Council and online.

For more information about the REF and to provide feedback, visit the [Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran](#) project page.

Appendix L – Online survey

Home > Roads > Newell highway upgrade at Coonabarabran

Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran

The NSW Government is providing \$11.5 million for planning of an upgrade of the Newell Highway at Coonabarabran. In 2019, the NSW Government announced option three, a bridge to the east of town, as the preferred route to provide motorists with a future safe and efficient bypass of the Newell Highway at Coonabarabran.

Transport for NSW has prepared a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to determine the environmental and social impacts for the upgrade.

The REF and concept design is now on display for public information and comment until **29 January 2021**.

Benefits of the project will include:

- reduced travel time
- removal of around 700 heavy vehicles from the town centre
- improved motorist and pedestrian safety
- improved traffic flow in Coonabarabran, particularly east-west travel
- improvement to the safety of the town centre for shoppers, residents and workers

The Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and concept design advice on public display since website page is also available to view at the Coonabarabran Library and Tamworth Regional Shire Council Administration Office at Coonabarabran.

To hear your say on the display site below please click on the link and email provided register your details to provide your feedback.

SUBMIT

Have Your Say

Submit your feedback (Note: you will be prompted to register your details)

5. Address

Please add your comment here...

5/256

6. Contact number

Please add your comment here...

5/256

7. What is your preferred contact method to receive information about this project?

☐ Website

☐ Letterbox drop

☐ Social media

☐ Email

Submit

Have Your Say

Survey steps First

At least 1 email with an address (1) are required

1. Do you have any comments on the proposed Newell Highway upgrade at Coonabarabran and the Review of Environmental Factors? *

Please add your comment here...

5/256

2. Name

Please add your comment here...

5/256

3. Organisation/Business (if applicable)





Please add your comment here...

5/256

4. Email address

Please add your comment here...

5/256

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