



Barton Highway safety upgrades

Project update

Roads and Maritime Services | May 2018

The Australian and NSW governments are providing \$100 million (\$50 million each) over four years to upgrade the Barton Highway. The upgrade will improve journey reliability, ease congestion, improve driver safety and boost freight productivity. The funding is being used to fund the short term investment priorities nominated in the Barton Highway Improvement Strategy.

This includes duplicating the highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman. Current investigations are focused on maximising the length of duplication within the budget commitment. The work has been split into four packages (see table below). More detail about each package and what we are doing to progress work is provided on the next page.

Package	Action
1	Duplication of the Barton Highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman
2	Concept design and environmental assessment for future duplication of the Barton Highway from the end of package one to Murrumbateman
3	Develop strategic business case for future duplication of the whole length of the Barton Highway
4	Safety work:
	4a. Improving clear zones (including installing safety barrier)
	4b. Improving bus stop locations
	4c. Installing Intelligent Transport Systems
	4d. Improving delineation and signage (upgrading linemarking)
	4e. Improving access for vulnerable road users (cyclists, pedestrians) in Murrumbateman village
	4f. Upgrading intersections
	4g. Road safety behavioural campaigns
	4h. Monitoring and maintaining bridges and culverts
	4i. Reviewing incident management plans

Package	Status
1 Road design consultant engaged	✓
1 Concept design for duplication	*
1, 2 Survey, geotechnical and utility investigations	*
1 Environmental assessment	*
3 Develop strategic business case	*
4a Safety barrier installation stage 1	✓
4a Safety barrier installation stage 2	✓
4b Stakeholder engagement	*
4c Installing intelligent Transport Systems (consultant engaged)	✓
4c Installing intelligent Transport Systems (feasibility study)	✓
4d Improving delineation and signage	✓
4e Stakeholder engagement	*
4f Stakeholder engagement	*
4g Road safety behavioural campaigns	*

* Under way ✓ Complete

Package 1

Duplication of the Barton Highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman

In early December 2017, the Australian and NSW governments announced there was sufficient funding to duplicate a section of the Barton Highway.

The section of highway from the ACT border towards Murrumbateman was identified for duplication. The existing highway will become the southbound carriageway and the new lanes will be the northbound carriageway. During detailed design we will be working with the road construction industry to maximise the length of duplication that can be delivered with the available funding.

We are currently carrying out preliminary field investigations as part of the concept design phase for this package. This includes:

- Engineering surveys
- Geotechnical investigations in both the existing road and proposed new road
- Utility investigations to identify any gas, water, telecommunications cables and electricity assets
- Social and economic impacts such as noise, severance, access and urban design
- Flora, fauna and heritage impact assessments.

In parallel with the field investigations, work is under way preparing plans for construction including:

- Road safety benefits
- Traffic and transport benefits, including benefits to commuters, as well as impacts to traffic flows
- Flooding impacts
- Property acquisition and access
- Engineering factors such as ease of construction and staging opportunities
- Project costs and value for money.

It is anticipated the concept design phase will be completed by September 2018 and the process to engage a contractor to carry out the final design and construction will be under way.



Safety barrier has been installed on the Barton Highway as part of package four work.



New line marking has been installed at various locations along the Barton Highway to improve safety.

Detailed design will focus on the design of technical aspects, such as culverts, bridges, drains, signs, lines, intersections and property access.

Once detailed design has been completed in 2019, it is anticipated that construction of the duplication section will start in mid to late 2019.

Package 2

Concept planning and environmental assessment for future duplication of the Barton Highway from package one to Murrumbateman

While current funding does not extend to construction of this section, early planning will be crucial to ensuring we are prepared if future funding becomes available.

Similar to package one, we will be carrying out concept planning and some environmental assessment to examine potential impacts. This will include geotechnical, engineering, road safety and environmental investigations.

It is anticipated the concept design for package two will be completed in mid 2020 and be informed by the business case.

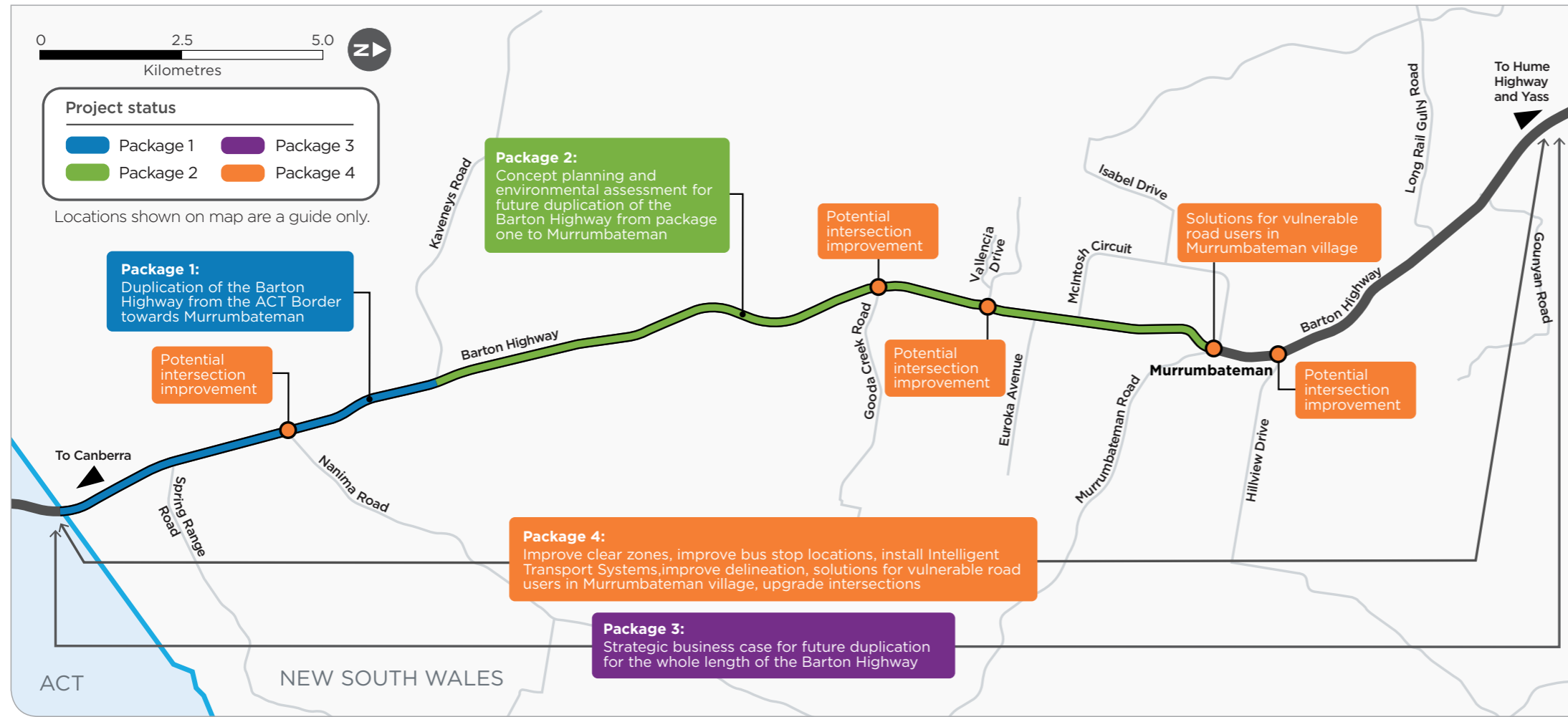
Package 3

Strategic business case for future duplication of the whole length of the Barton Highway

We are preparing a business case for the future duplication of the whole Barton Highway. A business case is an agency internal document that determines priorities for future work as funding becomes available.

The business case involves a series of technical investigations, including strategic duplication design, traffic data and modelling, and cost benefit analysis to develop a prioritised approach to future duplication. The business case is expected to be completed in September 2018.

Barton Highway safety upgrades map



Package 4

Safety work

Improving clear zones, delineation and signage

Safety work started in November 2017 and included upgrading signs, adjusting line marking and installing 1.7 kilometres of safety barrier. Some tree trimming and vegetation clearing was also carried out.

In early 2018 we restarted work to install 4.7 kilometres of safety barrier at various locations along the highway. This work was recently completed.

Some mature tree removal and stormwater drainage improvements will start later in the year, however further environmental assessment needs to occur before work starts.

Where possible, we have been working at night to reduce the impact to motorists.

Improving bus stop locations

Bus stop locations are currently being reviewed to determine options for improvements, including possible relocation. We will be consulting with council and bus operators to understand safety issues from a community perspective.

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)

ITS may include traffic monitoring devices, closed circuit television (CCTV) and variable message signs (VMS) at strategic locations to inform of changed traffic conditions affecting travel time, variability, road conditions, and road closures in a timely manner.

A project team has been formed to deliver a strategy for implementing ITS in line with future duplication of the Barton Highway.

This involves completing a feasibility study to identify suitable locations and to consider, environment, property, power, communications and constructability.

A draft feasibility study is currently being reviewed.

Improving access for vulnerable road users (cyclists, pedestrians) in Murrumbateman village

We will be investigating options to improve access for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders within Murrumbateman village. Development of these options will include consultation with council and community.

Intersection upgrades

All intersections on the Barton Highway will be assessed to determine options for improvements. Design and some environmental assessment will need to occur.

Road safety campaigns

Targeted road safety campaigns will complement the packages of work. The campaigns will address road safety issues such as driver fatigue and tail gating, speeding, driver distraction and roadwork safety. Collaboration will occur with council and police as the campaigns are rolled out.



The Barton Highway connects the Hume Highway with the ACT and services the towns of Yass, Murrumbateman, Hall and Canberra.

Access to properties

As part of planning for current and future duplication of the Barton Highway, we will need to carry out field investigations, including survey, geotechnical testing and utility searches. These investigations will help us better design the road and understand the impacts on various environmental and community concerns.

We will also need to carry out environmental investigations, such as biodiversity and specialist studies to investigate flora and fauna, including threatened species, visual design, hydrology, noise assessments, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage investigations, which will be used when developing the concept design.

Although many investigations will be carried out in the road reserve, we may need to access private properties in order to complete this work.

If we need to access your property, we will contact you directly to explain why we need to enter your property and will ask you to complete a property access agreement. The access agreement will help us understand your needs, reducing any possible disturbances to you or your property and ensuring that we address any special considerations or conditions of entry.



Bus stop locations will be reviewed to determine improvement options.



The Barton Highway caters for a mix of through, local and tourist traffic

What happens next?

Concept planning for packages one and two has begun.

We have started engineering survey work, geotechnical and utility investigations at various locations along the Barton Highway corridor from the ACT border to Murrumbateman.

Aboriginal cultural heritage investigations will also take place.

We will soon be contacting key stakeholders to help develop solutions to improve pedestrian safety in Murrumbateman and bus stops along the highway.

Involving the community

We will work with Yass Valley Council, property owners, residents, businesses, farmers, road users and other key stakeholders during the planning and construction process.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome.


We will keep the community informed about project progress on our website and facebook page, by distributing newsletters and holding information kiosks in local towns.

If you would like to be included in an email distribution group to receive information, please email barton.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au.

You can also follow us on facebook at NSWRoads.

Contact us:

If you have any questions or would like more on the Barton Highway safety upgrades please contact our project team:

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