

Barton Highway corridor upgrade

Stage 2 information

August 2022



The Australian and NSW Governments have together committed \$200 million towards the upgrade of the Barton Highway, with \$150 million provided by the Australian Government and \$50 million by the NSW Government.

This funding is being used across two projects along the corridor, with Stage 1 already under construction (the Barton Highway upgrade package), and Stage 2 in planning (the Barton Highway corridor upgrade).

Project overview

The Barton Highway is a significant transport link between NSW and the ACT and is being upgraded by Transport for NSW. The Barton Highway corridor upgrade (Stage 2) will involve duplication of the Barton Highway corridor from Kaveney's Road in Jeir to south of Gooda Creek Road.

Stage 2 project objectives

Duplicating the Barton Highway has been determined to be the best approach to resolve increasing population and traffic demands surrounding southern and western NSW.

A number of objectives will be fulfilled following the Highway duplication including:

- reducing travel times and improving travel time reliability for all transport customers and freight movement between Yass, the ACT and southern and western NSW
- reducing crash rates along the highway to provide a safer and more reliable journey for all road users.

Planning for the Barton Highway

Work completed to date includes:

- publishing the Barton Highway Improvement Strategy (2017) outlining some short, medium and long-term actions to address road safety and travel delay issues along the highway's 52-kilometre length while maximising the existing road performance

- carrying out a package of safety improvements along the highway
- publishing the Barton Highway Duplication Business Case (2019) on the staged duplication of the Barton Highway.

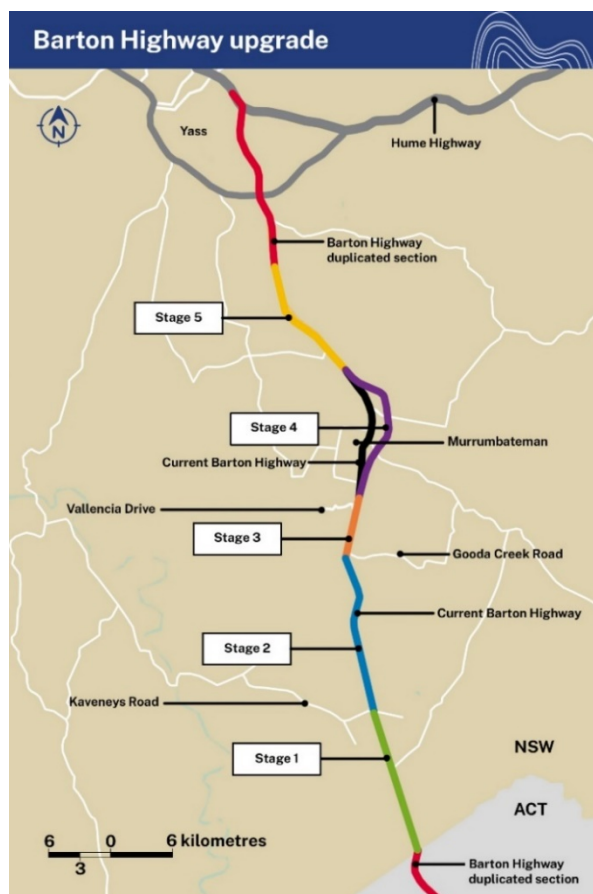
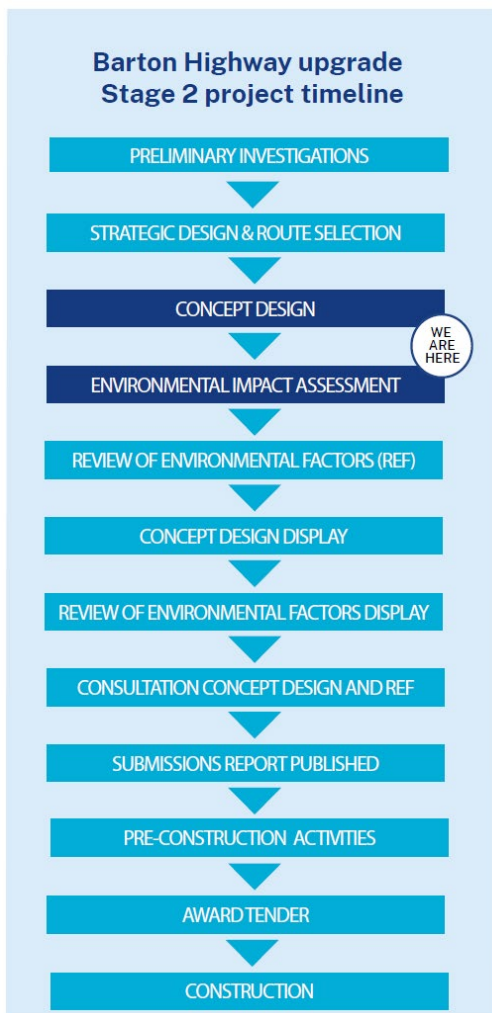


Image of Barton Highway Corridor Upgrade Project stage boundaries



We are now reviewing all feedback received and planning our first Aboriginal Focus Group, where we will review and take feedback on the reports drafted as part of our 'Procedure for Aboriginal Culture, Heritage, Consultation and Investigation' which include:

- archaeological survey report
- archaeological test excavation methodology
- Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment Project Draft Methodology.

Concept designs

Concept design is currently at 20 per cent of the design for Stage 2 project (excluding the intersection at Kaveney's Road). Further consultation is needed before an intersection design at Kaveney's Road can be finalised.

Road safety

The Barton Highway Improvement Strategy refers to safety statistics which played an integral role in its development. The corridor maintains a poor crash history with 105 crashes between 2012 and 2017. From these crashes, three resulted in fatalities, 91 in injuries, 17 dual carriageway accidents and 88 single carriageway crashes.

Head-on collisions have occurred due to unsafe overtaking and driver frustration. Further safety issues included in the development of the Barton Highway Improvement Strategy include:

- difficulty turning onto and off the highway from private and commercial properties along or near the corridor and at intersections due to heavy traffic
- various speed zones, narrow shoulders and lane widths, as well as lack of appropriate clear zones and poor visibility due to overgrown and larger vegetation
- private and commercial properties along or near the corridor and at intersections due to heavy traffic
- poor incident management due to the multiple single lane carriageway sections along the corridor.

Environmental investigations

Biodiversity investigations have started, including into squirrel gliders and golden sun moths.

Transport has committed to ensuring the safety of these species and will continue investigations to determine if there are other endangered local fauna near the Barton Highway site.

Next steps

Transport will complete an Environmental Impact Assessment to determine impacts to the environment for the project and mitigation measures to reduce or avoid impacts to the natural and physical environment surrounding the Stage 2 project site.

Cultural investigations

Planning for Stage 2 of duplication continues to gear up, with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) starting to get involved early.

Last month, RAPs were invited to join us at the Yarramundi Cultural Centre in Canberra to have a yarn, meet the project team, learn more about the project, ask questions and provide feedback to help us identify and minimise impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Cultural heritage is a priority for the project, with early involvement key to the best outcomes for Aboriginal heritage, the environment and community.

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Barton Highway upgrade please contact our project team:

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