

Frequently asked questions

October 2008



Australian Government



Barton Highway future duplication

The Australian Government is funding the planning process for the future duplication of the single carriageway sections of the Barton Highway from the ACT border and the existing dual carriageways north of Murrumbateman. The RTA has identified a corridor along which various studies and investigations will occur. This will assist the RTA in determining revised road boundaries for the future duplication. A public display of the corridor was held in May 2008. Answers are provided below to questions asked at the public display about the future duplication of the Barton Highway.:

Will the duplication of the Barton Highway be constructed in stages?

It is likely that duplication of the Barton Highway will be carried out in stages as funding is allocated for construction. However, the sequence and location of each stage won't be determined until funds are committed for construction.

Will the RTA reinstate access to private property at no cost to owners where the duplication disrupts current access?

The RTA will reinstate access at no cost to the property owner. This may involve providing access from an adjacent side road in some cases. Property owners will be kept informed throughout the concept design process of the types of access arrangements being considered.

Will the RTA consider immediate safety improvements at the intersections of Valencia Drive and Euroka Road?

The RTA will review safety at these intersections and assess what road safety measures can be implemented in the short term.

What type of intersection treatments will be considered for Hillview Drive, Kaveney's Road and Gooda Creek Road when duplication occurs?

As part of concept design, the RTA will assess these locations and the types of intersection treatments required. The RTA will consider traffic volumes, safety, types of vehicles using the intersection, sight distances and input from council and residents.

What can be done to improve safety at the McIntosh Circuit intersection?

The RTA understands that road safety at this intersection is of concern to the Murrumbateman community.

The RTA will review safety at the intersection and assess what road safety measures can be implemented in the short term.

As part of concept design for future duplication of the Barton Highway, the RTA will consider the type of intersection treatment required at this location that is safe and meets the needs of present and future traffic volumes using the intersection.

How will horse riders get access to the showground from east of the Murrumbateman bypass?

As part of concept design the RTA will determine what type of access should be provided. Feedback from the community is an important part of this process.

Will a cycleway from Yass to Canberra be incorporated into the design?

The needs of cyclists will be assessed in detail during the development phase of the project. The provision of wide road shoulders, similar to those being constructed as part of the Hume Highway duplication, may be a suitable outcome. There will be consultation with a broad range of stakeholders including cycling groups as the project progresses.

Will the RTA reconsider the western option for a future bypass of Murrumbateman?

In October 2001 the Australian Government announced the outer eastern route for the Murrumbateman bypass as the preferred project. This decision will not be reconsidered as part of the planning process.

What type of access will there be from the bypass into Murrumbateman?

As part of concept design the RTA will determine options for access into Murrumbateman separate from the highway. It is likely this access will be from Murrumbateman Road. The RTA will consult with Yass Valley Council and the community on access arrangements into the village.

How will noise impacts be assessed and treated?

The existing noise environment will be measured at selected locations during the current investigations.

Noise modelling will also be carried out to assess noise impacts of predicted traffic volumes using the upgraded highway.

Mitigation of traffic noise impacts will be considered as part of detailed environmental assessment of the route which will occur closer to time of construction. Mitigation measures may include noise walls, mounds or architectural treatments of buildings (such as thicker window glazing).

Further noise monitoring will be undertaken when the new road is opened to traffic to determine the actual noise impacts and to compare these with the noise modelling. This will indicate whether further noise mitigation is required.

How will the RTA take into account the effects of fog on intersection treatments? What can be done now?

Fog conditions at intersections will be taken into consideration as part of concept design. The RTA will review signage in Murrumbateman relating to fog conditions.

How will the RTA ensure that lighting of the new road does not affect residents?

The types of lighting required will be determined when detailed design commences. New lighting designs currently available concentrate light where it is needed and are effective in reducing light spill near urban areas.

What safety measures will the RTA carry out in the interim?

The RTA has conducted a safety review of the Barton Highway and is currently developing proposals for safety upgrades to improve highway travel conditions in the short term.

This is being done in consultation with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

Any improvement work carried out as part of the safety review will take into account planning for the future duplication of the Barton Highway.

Will the community have a chance to give input before designs are finalised?

The RTA welcomes feedback from the community as part of input into the concept design. Submissions should be sent to the Barton Highway future duplication project manager, PO Box 484, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 or email wagga_wagga_regional_office@rta.nsw.gov.au

What happens next?

A detailed engineering survey has commenced over the entire 33km of single carriageway.

A contractor is currently scheduled to be engaged in early 2009 to undertake preliminary environmental investigations.

For further information

For more information contact the Barton Highway future duplication project manager on (02) 6938 1111.

