The NSW Government is providing $266 million to fund a New England Highway bypass of Muswellbrook. The bypass would improve travel times for long haul freight movements and safety for all road users.

Background
The New England Highway is part of the inland Sydney to Brisbane National Land Transport Network and the primary route connecting the Upper Hunter with Maitland and Newcastle.

The highway passes through the centre of Muswellbrook and is a two lane road, restricted by numerous intersections and adjacent buildings with minimal setback from the road. The highway carries between 9600 to 19,500 vehicles through the township each day, about 13 per cent being heavy vehicles.

An options report confirming the preferred route corridor was published in July 2018. The preferred route option is a full bypass around 9.1 kilometres in length which is a refinement of the previous corridor identified in the Muswellbrook Shire Council Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2009, with changes to improve constructability and access.

Work in progress
We are currently progressing a strategic business case so we can work towards completing the concept design and environmental assessment.

The first step is selecting a preferred option generally within the preferred route corridor. Developing the preferred option includes:

- site investigations to identify geotechnical and environmental constraints to minimise potential impacts
- consultation and investigations to better understand any potential heritage impacts
- developing design options for the alignment and connections to the existing New England Highway
- value management workshops to identify the most economically and environmentally viable preferred option.
Preferred route option

Project benefits
- improve network efficiency on the New England Highway, particularly travel times for long haul freight movements
- improve safety for all road users in the town centre, particularly relating to heavy and light vehicle interactions
- improve amenity of Muswellbrook township.

Next steps
The preferred option for the proposed bypass will be displayed for community feedback in early 2020.

We will then develop the concept design and environmental assessment for future community feedback.

We anticipate construction starting in 2022, subject to project approval.

We will keep the community and key stakeholders informed as the project progresses.

Contact us
For more information on the Muswellbrook bypass or to join our mailing list (email or post), please contact our project team:

1800 517 222
Muswellbrook.Bypass@rms.nsw.gov.au
rms.work/muswellbrookbypass
Muswellbrook bypass project team
Locked Bag 2030
Newcastle NSW 2300

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 517 222.

Project development process

Privacy Roads and Maritime Services (“RMS”) 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 delivering 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 RMS will only disclose your personal information, without your consent, if authorised by the law. Your personal information will be held by RMS at 266 King Street, Newcastle NSW 2300. You have the right to access and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.