Kings Highway road safety improvements

The NSW Government has provided $25 million for safety improvements along the Kings Highway.

Background

In 2012 the NSW Centre for Road Safety and Roads and Maritime Services carried out a route safety review of 117km of the Kings Highway between the Princes Highway roundabout at Batemans Bay and the eastern most part of the ACT border just south of Bungendore.

The review included consultation with the community to understand local road safety issues as well as unreported crashes and near misses happening along the Highway. The review also looked at recent crashes to identify specific safety problems.

The results of the investigations and community consultation are being used to carry out a range of safety improvements. A combination of road safety upgrades, driver behaviour and police enforcement programs will be put into place over the next four years.

There is a mixture of upgrades in planning, under construction and completed projects. Roads and Maritime will aim to minimise the disruption to motorists and appreciates your patience during this time.

Road Safety Projects

Crash analysis was a key part of the review on the Kings Highway. Identifying the type and location of crashes is important so that the most appropriate solutions can be developed.

Analysis of crash types on the Kings Highway between 2007 and 2012 found that the majority of crashes which caused casualties were head on crashes, or run off road crashes resulting in a collision with a road side hazard.

Road safety upgrades such as curve improvements, shoulder widening, and removal of roadside hazards will reduce the frequency and severity of crashes.

The most common types of crashes on the highway can also be attributed to driver frustration around the lack of overtaking opportunities. Engineering work will look at increasing the amount of formal overtaking opportunities, especially in locations where there are long gaps between overtaking lanes.
MR51 Kings Highway projects

- **Pavement strengthening and widening** at Captains Flat Road – Under construction April–August 2015
- **Guard rail** – Under construction
- **Major realignment, shoulder widening and eastbound overtaking lane extension** at Doughboy – Under construction
- **Eastbound overtaking lane, shoulder widening and removal of roadside hazards** east of Shoalhaven River – Due for completion mid 2015
- **Curve realignment, shoulder widening and pavement improvements** east of Larbert Road – Completed June 2014
- **Pavement and line marking improvements** near Glenmore Road, Braidwood Township – Completed May 2014
- **Curve realignment, shoulder widening and pavement improvements** east of Larbert Road – Completed June 2014
- **West Tambourah Road intersection improvements** – Completed August 2014
- **Safety improvements (road resurfacing, guardrail installation)** Clyde Mountain (6km length) – Completed May 2015
- **Western Distributor Road intersection improvements** – Completed August 2014
- **Clyde Mountain slope stabilisation** – Completed September 2014
- **Removal of roadside hazards and guardrail installation** at the top of Clyde Mountain (2km length) – Completed July 2014
- **Safety improvements (road resurfacing, guardrail installation)** Clyde Mountain (6km length) – Completed May 2015
- **Guard rail installation** – Completed May 2015
- **Investigation and removal of roadside hazards** – In planning
- **Minor realignment and shoulder widening at Misty Mountain** – Under construction May – September 2015
- **Major curve realignment 1km east of Nelligen** – Under construction
- **Nelligen Bridge project** – In planning
- **Shoulder widening, pavement improvements and eastbound overtaking lane** extension at Doughboy – Completed May 2014

**Key**
- **Completed**
- **Under construction**
- **In planning**
- **Guard rail installation**
A localised public education safety campaign began in November 2013 to highlight the increased police enforcement happening on the Kings Highway and to reinforce the consequences of breaking the law. Activities include radio advertising, advertising on ATMs along the route, and on buses and taxis in Braidwood, Bungendore and Batemans Bay. This has been further supported by electronic message boards along the Kings Highway carrying a range of messages related to speed, fatigue and drink driving.

We have been working with NSW Police to develop enforcement sites at a number of locations on the Kings Highway. An eastbound speed enforcement site is planned at Doughboy and will allow police to intercept speeding drivers between Braidwood and Bungendore, while a larger westbound site near the Captains Flat Road roundabout will provide space for a range of enforcement activities, including random breath testing and drug testing. This site will also be used by Roads and Maritime heavy vehicle inspectors to ensure that heavy vehicles travelling to Queanbeyan and Canberra comply with safety requirements.

A clear zone is an area next to the road that is either free of, or protected from roadside hazards such as trees, power poles, steep drop-offs or drains. Effective clear zones offer a more forgiving road environment so road users have more time to correct their vehicle if they make a mistake on the road.
One of the recommendations of the review was to look at clear zones along the highway and identify options to remove or provide protection from roadside hazards. We carried out an audit along the Kings Highway and identified locations where clear zones can be improved.

Effective line marking improves the safety of the road system by improving driver information, driver comfort and traffic flow. Line marking, reflective road pavement markers and guide posts, curve warning signage and advisory speed signage are all examples of line marking devices that are used to help guide road users.

We have looked at the effectiveness and consistency of line marking at intersections and at overtaking opportunities. Around four kilometres of changes to line marking have been made along the highway to improve safety.

We have also started to identify locations where roadside signage could be improved. Vehicle activated signs have been installed at a number of locations on the Kings Highway and activate to flash a ‘warning’ message if a motorist is travelling faster than the speed limit.

Roads and Maritime will continue to assess and improve line marking along the entire length of the highway as part of this program.