Overview

The NSW Government is proposing to upgrade sections of Chifley Road between Bell and Lithgow as part of the Bells Line of Road Corridor.

The upgrade is being planned to provide long-term road safety benefits and improve regional access.

The Bells Line of Road and its westerly extension, Chifley Road, form one of two major routes linking the Sydney urban area with Lithgow and the NSW Central Western region, through the Blue Mountains.

The combination of narrow lanes and shoulders and poor vertical and horizontal road alignment has led to a high crash rate along Chifley Road.

A Review of Environmental Factors and concept design for the proposed upgrade of Bells Line of Road/Chifley Road was determined last year, after community and stakeholder feedback.

Latest news

Between February 2012 and December 2013, a number of safety features were implemented in the Scenic Hill area, including weather activated reduce speed signs, road resurfacing and speed activated curve advisory signs.

These features have reduced vehicle crashes in the area.

With the improved safety at Scenic Hill and with the availability of funding for the project, the replacement of the bridge at Clarence was determined to be a higher priority.

The NSW Government has allocated $2.5 million in 2017/18 to continue planning to improve safety on Chifley Road by building a new bridge with an improved alignment across the railway line at Clarence.
Why does Chifley Road need to be upgraded?
The key focus of the upgrade is the Clarence Road rail bridge, located around five kilometres west of Bell.

The existing bridge will be replaced to improve safety for all road users and improve regional access.

A new bridge across the rail line is required as the existing bridge was built in 1943 and its condition has deteriorated.

The existing bridge has narrow lanes, no road shoulders and safety barriers which need updating.

Key features
The upgrade would provide long-term road safety benefits and improve regional access and efficiency by:

- replacing and removing the existing Clarence Road bridge across the Main Western railway line on Chifley Road
- widening and realigning the approaches to the new bridge across the railway line
- improving the Clarence Colliery Road intersection with Chifley Road.
Clarence Road over rail bridge

Replacing and removing the existing road bridge across the Main Western railway line

Widening and realigning the approaches to the proposed new bridge

Upgrading the intersection of Chifley Road with Clarence Colliery Road

Key
- Proposed new bridge
Community consultation

Roads and Maritime prepared a Review of Environmental Factors to examine the potential impact of the proposed Chifley Road upgrade and outline measures to reduce and manage any impact.

The Review of Environmental Factors came after the display of a preliminary concept design which encouraged community and stakeholder feedback to help guide the design.

A community consultation report outlining and responding to issues raised is available on the Roads and Maritime website.

The Review of Environmental Factors was displayed for community and stakeholder feedback last year.

A total of 10 submissions were received which resulted in no changes to the project.


Next Steps

The contract for the detailed design of the Clarence Bridge replacement is expected to be awarded by the end of 2017, with design work starting in early 2018.

Contact us

For more information or to provide feedback, please contact the project team:

1800 874 897
ChifleyRoadUpgrade@rms.nsw.gov.au
rms.nsw.gov.au/chifley
Bells Line of Road/Chifley Road Upgrade project team
Roads and Maritime Services
PO Box 973
Parramatta NSW 2124

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 874 897.

The process so far

Roads and Maritime will continue to keep the community updated as the project progresses.

Consultation on strategic design
Investigations to develop concept design and Review of Environmental Factors
Consultation report
Consultation on concept design and Review of Environmental Factors
Submissions report
Detailed design
Award construction tender
Start construction
Open to traffic

October 2017
RMS 17.516

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 assisting in the delivery of 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 27 Argyle Street, Parramatta. You have the right to access and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.