



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Transport for NSW

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors

Urban design and landscaping fact sheet

July 2021



The proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade adopts urban design principles to retain the character and feel of the village

Together the Australian and NSW Governments are investing more than \$4.5 billion towards upgrading the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow. The Great Western Highway Upgrade will reduce congestion, deliver safer, more efficient and reliable journeys for those travelling in, around and through the Blue Mountains, and better connect communities in the Central West.

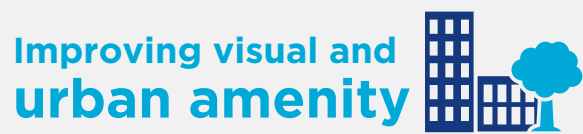
Transport for NSW (Transport) will ensure Medlow Bath, the first built-up area west of Katoomba, retains its heritage and village aesthetic through the upgrade.

We are sensitive to the area's natural and built environment, as well as the value the community places on their village.

We will continue to consult with the community and stakeholders to develop a Cultural Interpretation Strategy to identify opportunities to tell local stories and celebrate local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal culture.

Transport is presenting a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and Concept Design for the Medlow Bath Upgrade for community consultation from 26 July to 24 August 2021.

We invite the Medlow Bath community and other interested stakeholders to submit feedback to help inform next steps for the proposal.



Urban design and landscaping features

We have assessed potential impacts of the project on landscape, character and visual amenity for the local community and travellers passing through Medlow Bath. In our design for Medlow Bath, we want to:

- Fit with the high visual qualities and character of Medlow Bath and the Blue Mountains setting.
- Minimise impacts to heritage sites, significant trees and the community's cultural values.
- Create a road corridor that responds to the natural and cultural environment, improves local and regional connectivity and evokes the underlying character of Medlow Bath and the Blue Mountains.

An urban design and landscape plan is being developed which includes:

- Retaining existing tree plantings where possible along the Great Western Highway

- Landscaped median / verges including either:
 - relocation of locally planted trees
 - native shrubs and grasses with taller native trees that respond to the nearby environment
 - ornamental shrubs, groundcover plantings and trees that respond to other cultural aspects of Medlow Bath.

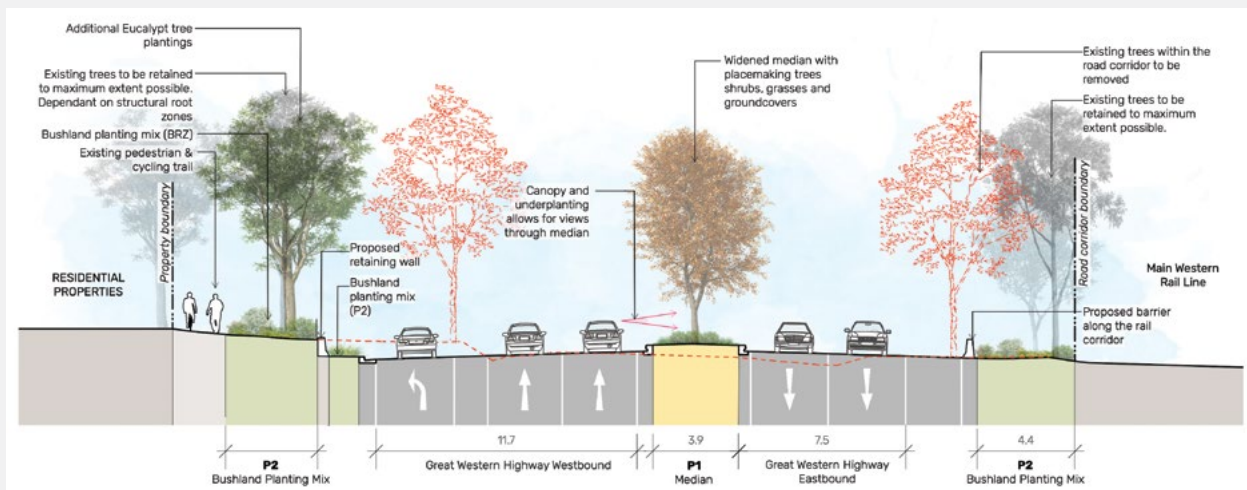
The urban design for the upgrade has been used to improve safety for pedestrians by providing a vegetated buffer between the road shoulder and shared path.

Landscaping is also used to shield highway traffic from head lights of local residents using driveways and shared zones, increasing safety for motorists at night.

We will continue to seek your feedback throughout the project on opportunities to improve the visual and urban amenity of Medlow Bath.



Design features will complement the existing charm of Medlow Bath



Artist's representation of proposed landscaping for the the Great Western Highway at Medlow Bath, looking west towards Bellevue Crescent and the Hydro Majestic

Reducing the impact of our work

We will make sure that the upgrade fits with the plants and vegetation already in Medlow Bath so that we maintain the town's current sense of place. We will remove as little of the existing vegetation as possible and include as much verge area as we can to provide a buffer between the shared path and the Highway.

Where there is a limit to the buffer zones we will consolidate the road and rail corridor as much as possible and, where space permits, we will include street trees and shrubs to improve the look and feel of the town.

For further details, you can see the REF or read the Urban Design, Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment available on the project website.

When we are building

We will identify as many existing trees as we can to be protected and kept within the construction area. Construction will have some impacts along the road, but we will make sure that all of those impacts are renewed, including planting new trees and vegetation beside the road and on the median.

There will be some impacts to how the town looks during construction, as we will need to have a site office, construction traffic and equipment and stored materials along the road corridor.

During construction we will use screens to minimise the visual intrusion of construction facilities. We will remove those screens and rehabilitate the land to its existing condition, or as otherwise agreed with the landowner, as soon as possible when we finish building.

What is an REF?

Transport has legal obligations to assess and mitigate impacts that may result from a proposed activity. An REF details these legal obligations, and the environmental impacts and mitigation measures of a project. Feedback on this REF will inform the approval of the proposed Medlow Bath Upgrade.

What is a Concept Design?

The Concept Design is a project design that is developed in sufficient detail to allow an assessment of likely environmental, social and economic impacts so that stakeholders can consider the proposed project and provide feedback. The concept design may change based on feedback provided by stakeholders.

View the REF and Concept Design

You can view the Medlow Bath Upgrade REF and Concept Design at our virtual consultation room at nswroads.work/gwhdconsult

Have your say

We will hold online consultation sessions where you can ask our team any questions you have and tell us what you think.

We recommend that you view the REF and Concept Design before you speak with the team or make a submission.

Speak to the project team

Wednesday 28 July **Saturday 31 July**
1.00–2.30pm 12.30–2.00pm

Tuesday 3 August **Thursday 5 August**
6.30–8.00pm 6.30–8.00pm

Register for our Microsoft Teams live-stream consultation sessions at nswroads.work/gwhdconsult

Contact us on **1800 953 777** or gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au to book a personal phone consultation if you prefer.

Face-to-face consultation

As COVID-19 restrictions are once again in place, we regret we are unlikely to be able to offer face-to-face consultation at this time.

Consultation will be held online to ensure your safety and comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

If restrictions ease before consultation ends we will organise face-to-face consultation, in line with existing guidelines at that time.

How to make a formal submission

We welcome all feedback on the Medlow Bath Upgrade REF and Concept Design.

To have your input formally considered, and receive a response in the consultation report, use our online submission form at nswroads.work/gwhdconsult or mail a printed submission to:

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program
Medlow Bath Upgrade REF & Concept
Design PO Box 2332, Orange NSW 2800

Consultation and exhibition is open from 26 July - 24 August. All formal submissions must be received by midnight, 24 August.

Contact us

Sign up for our eNewsletter online at nswroads.work/gwhd and you'll never miss a project update.



nswroads.work/gwhd



gwhd@transport.nsw.gov.au



1800 953 777



Great Western Highway
Upgrade Program
PO Box 2332, Orange NSW 2800



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