



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Transport for NSW

Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors

Water quality fact sheet

July 2021



Transport is committed to improving water quality draining into the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment

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 improve stormwater drainage and water quality control as part of the Medlow Bath Upgrade.

We are working with Blue Mountains City Council, Water NSW and specialist design teams to develop innovative solutions to improve water quality.

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.



Protecting water quality

We will build drainage along the Great Western Highway to capture surface water run-off, providing better stormwater management for Medlow Bath, which has minimal existing drainage.

As water draining from the upgrade area flows into the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment, we are committed to improving water quality before it rejoins the downstream catchment.

To protect water quality during construction, we will ensure a comprehensive erosion and sediment control scheme is implemented by the construction contractor, and that run-off meets regulated standards. Water quality will be maintained or improved throughout construction, and we are developing systems that will provide even better water quality post-completion.

We are carrying out geotechnical investigations to determine if there is any potential for contamination of water and if we discover anything we will ensure our design addresses it.

We have developed the concept design to include a comprehensive system of water quality controls in Railway Parade that will improve the management of stormwater flowing into the drinking catchment.

Aquatic assessment

We have assessed the waterways around Medlow Bath and did not identify any threatened ecological communities within the immediate study area.

There is a Temperate Highland Peat Swamp on Sandstone endangered ecological community to the northeast of Medlow Bath, but our studies show it is not likely to be significantly impacted by the Medlow Bath Upgrade. We will take all appropriate measures, guided by expert environmental assessment, to ensure that any potential impact is addressed and mitigated.

Our assessment does not expect the project to have any direct impacts on groundwater dependant ecosystems. We have not found any defined drainages classified as waterway habitat, and we do not expect there to be any direct impacts on aquatic habitat from the upgrade.



Gross pollutant traps like Blue Mountains City Council's best-practice examples will be used in Medlow Bath



Rain gardens like those installed by Blue Mountains City Council will be used to filter stormwater

When we are building

We will use sediment basins, pollutant traps and level spreaders to control the quality and flow of water leaving the Highway. This will minimise the potential for water to leave the road at a high enough volume and speed to impact on the surrounding environment.

When we are operational

The upgrade design will include spill containment structures and we will develop an emergency spill plan to address accidental spills and the leaking of chemicals in transit from entering local waterways.

We will use innovative water quality systems to control the rate, volume and quality of water leaving the Highway to improve the quality of water joining the Sydney Water Catchment Area.

Reducing the impact of our work

We will minimise ground disturbance and exposed soil to reduce the potential for erosion and blockage of local waterways by:

- using sediment basins, pollutant traps, drainage channels, flow diversion bunds and sediment fencing
- installing rumble grids or wheel wash bays at work entry and exit points
- using fencing, straw bales or sandbags to temporarily stabilise disturbed ground
- replanting exposed areas as soon as possible.

We will use exclusion zones for fill placement and minimise pollution from run-off at our ancillary facilities by storing chemicals in sealed areas. We will restrict vehicle movements to designated pathways as much as possible, stabilise open areas where feasible, and treat run-off before it is discharged into downstream waterways.

We will also identify how stormwater treatment systems and devices installed as part of the project will be maintained, and who will be responsible for that maintenance.

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
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PO Box 2332, Orange NSW 2800



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