



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER - January 2019
OLD COOMA ROAD UPGRADE
STAGE TWO

Monaro Palerang Roads Package

The NSW Government has invested in a \$70 million program of works to improve a number of roads in the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) local government area. They include the upgrade and sealing of four sections of Nerriga Road near Braidwood, a new roundabout in Bungendore and the duplication of Old Cooma Road between Edwin Land Parkway and Googong Road.

Work on Old Cooma Road has now commenced.

Project overview

Old Cooma Road is progressively being upgraded to meet the growing traffic demands of developments in the south of Queanbeyan including the Googong Township and beyond.

Stage One was the realignment of a 1.8km section of the road, bypassing 'S' bends that previously passed by the entrance to the neighbouring quarry. Stage One was completed in 2014.

Stage Two is the 4.5km duplication of the road from the intersection of Edwin Land Parkway to the intersection of Googong Road. A separate project involving the installation of traffic lights at the Googong Road intersection is being undertaken by the Googong developer, not Council (see further information on the back panel of this newsletter).

Stage Two is expected to cost \$31 million. Construction will be undertaken by WBHO Infrastructure Pty Ltd which is also working on the Ellerton Drive extension project.

Stage Three will involve the section of road between Southbar Road and Edwin Land Parkway. This section is not in QPRC's current Delivery Program. Traffic modelling shows that it will be required by around 2026.

Key features

Stage Two is expected to be completed in late 2020.

Key features of the duplication include:

- 4.5km duplication of Old Cooma Road from Edwin Land Parkway to Googong Road
- Two lanes in each direction separated by a 6m wide central median
- Stabilisation of the rock cutting on the western side of the road
- Shared off-road cyclist and pedestrian pathway linking Queanbeyan to Googong
- Provisions for on-road cyclists
- An 80km/h speed limit from Edwin Land Parkway to Googong Road
- Upgraded intersections at Wickerslack Lane, Tempe Crescent/Heights Road and Talpa Road
- A fauna underpass

Sod turn

On 21 January 2019, Member for Monaro John Barilaro and QPRC Mayor Tim Overall were joined by Aunty Matilda House and Uncle Jim Williams from the Ngambri Local Aboriginal Land Council to turn the first sod to officially commence construction on the project.



General hours of construction work

- Monday to Friday - 7am to 6pm
- Saturday - 8am to 1pm, Sunday - no work

To further reduce the impact to road users, we are also seeking permission for occasional night work and to extend work hours on Saturdays to 5pm. Any work outside of these hours is restricted to low noise work only.

Smoking ceremony

Smoking ceremonies are an ancient custom among Aboriginal Australians in which native plants are burnt to produce smoke to ward off bad spirits, acknowledge ancestors and pay respect to the land. The smoke is believed to have healing and cleansing properties.

Ngambri Elders, Aunty Matilda and Uncle Jim, offered a Welcome to Country and conducted a smoking ceremony as part of the official sod turning event.



Earthworks

Earthworks will start from the northern end of Old Cooma Road, near the Edwin Land Parkway intersection, and move progressively south toward Googong.

The majority of initial earthworks will be alongside the existing road. At times the contractor will need to work within the existing road area. Traffic controls, including concrete barriers and reduced speed limits, will be in place to manage traffic flow and ensure safety of road users and construction workers.

Environmental works

Clearing of vegetation along Old Cooma Road has commenced. The project's environmental impact is being minimised by keeping clearing in vegetated areas to a minimum. Environmentally sensitive areas have been marked with orange flagging.



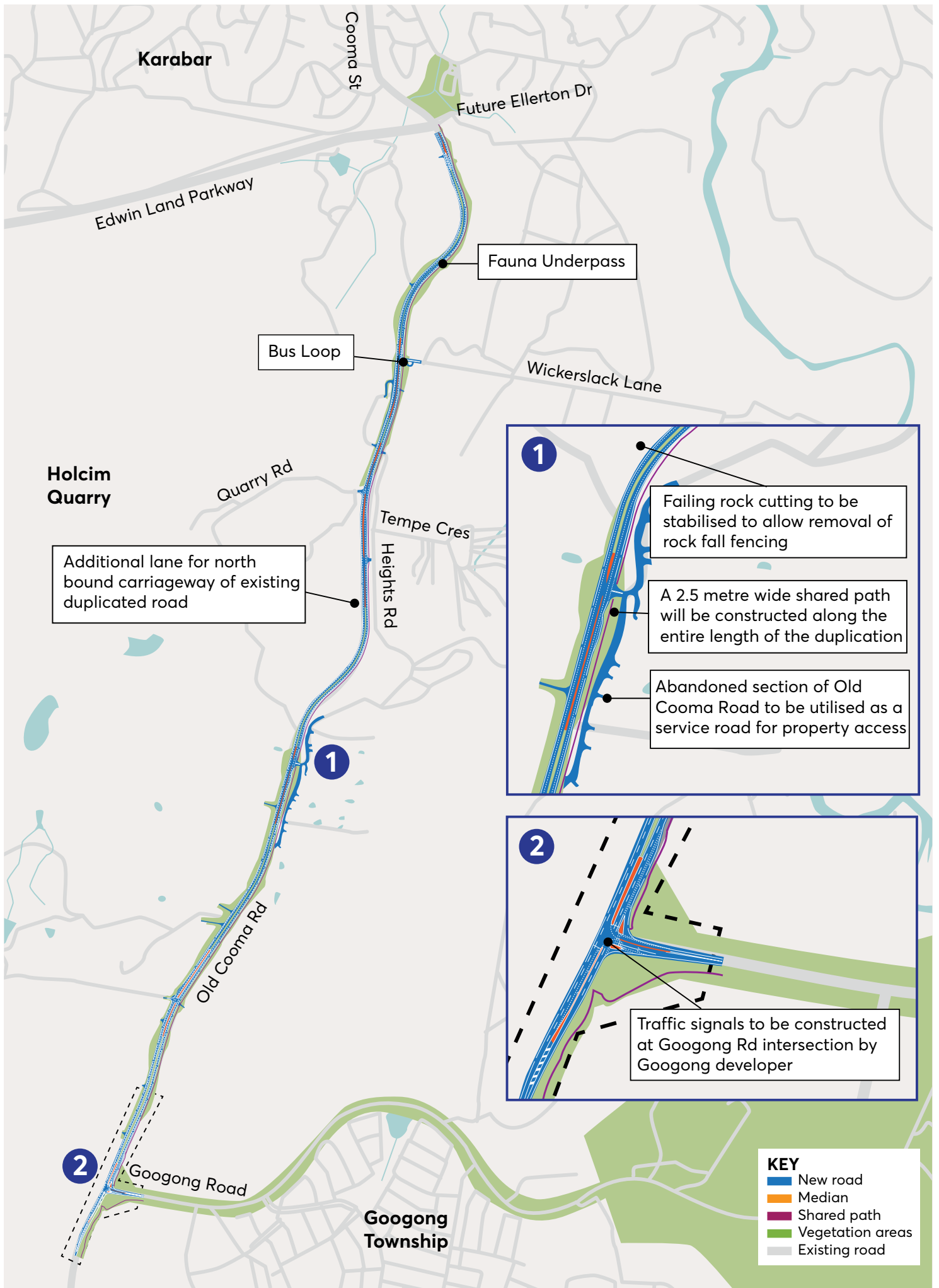
Temporary speed limit reductions

A temporary speed limit restriction of 60km/h will be applied as the earthworks and construction activity increases. This will ensure the safety of workers during the day. The reduced speed limit will also remain in place after hours to minimise risks to other road users who may be unfamiliar with changed road conditions.

Testing and investigations indicate the reduction in the speed limit will add just over one minute to the trip for the full length of the project. This time may increase during peak morning and afternoon traffic and between 10am and 3pm when stop/go traffic control may be in place.



Old Cooma Road Upgrade Stage Two





Reducing traffic delays

The project team will be carefully focusing on traffic management to minimise delays for road users, while providing a safe environment for workers. The following controls will be implemented to reduce the impacts to drivers:

- The majority of works will be alongside the existing road, meaning the existing road will continue to be used.
- The use of stop/go traffic control will be limited to between 10am and 3pm to avoid peak traffic times.

The project team would like to thank the community in advance for their patience with travel delays and for planning your trip with these works in mind.

Traffic lights at intersection of Old Cooma Road and Googong Road

The installation of traffic lights at the corner of Old Cooma Road and Googong Road does not fall within Stage Two of the Old Cooma Road project.

The redesign of the intersection to include traffic lights will be undertaken by Peet Limited, the developer of Googong Township. This piece of work will not include a slip lane on Old Cooma Rd, however Council is currently undertaking the design and the relevant land acquisitions to progress the construction of a slip lane in the future.

Below: The failing rock cutting on the western side of the Stage One upgrade near Talpa Heights will be stabilised.



Drop-in information sessions



QPRC and WBHO Infrastructure will be holding information sessions in Googong in early February to talk to residents about the project.

Come along to one of the following sessions:

- 5-7pm, Thursday 7 February at the Googong Sales and Information Centre, inside Club Googong, 27 Beltana Avenue Googong
- 10am-12 noon Saturday 9 February at the Googong Community Centre, upstairs on the corner of McPhail Way and Gorman Drive Googong

The sessions will be informal. You can drop in at any time during either session.

Contact information




For construction-related matters contact WBHO Infrastructure on:

 1800 266 221

 oldcoomaroad@wbho.com.au

 240 Old Cooma Road
Karabar NSW 2620

If you have any questions about the project which are not related to construction, contact QPRC on:

 1300 735 025

 council@qprc.nsw.gov.au

 www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/OCR2



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1300 735 025

Register for project updates

If you'd like to receive regular email updates about Stage Two of the Old Cooma Road upgrade, you can subscribe at: www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/OCR2