



# Background

The Princes Highway is critical to a thriving South Coast NSW.

It unlocks economic, employment and social opportunity for the region and connects regional centres and essential services.

It helps drive the state's third largest regional economy, is relied upon by over 500,000 locals and welcomes almost four million tourists each year.

Since 2011, the Australian and NSW governments have invested \$2.5 billion upgrading the Princes Highway to create safer and more efficient journeys. This has transformed and better connected communities, employed thousands of locals, improved safety, eased traffic congestion and grown regional economies.

The focus is now on the future, with the Australian and NSW Governments committing \$1.5 billion to upgrade the Princes Highway between Nowra and the Victorian border.

Five priority projects have already progressed to the design phase including Jervis Bay Road and Princes Highway intersection, Jervis Bay to Sussex Inlet Road upgrade, Milton Ulladulla bypass, Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay upgrade and Moruya bypass.

# Developing a way forward

Transport for NSW has been working to deliver a roadmap for the Princes Highway upgrade.

The roadmap is our plan for the highway over the next 20 years.

The future of South Coast NSW depends on transport and the roadmap identifies what needs to be done now and into the future to deliver better connected and more mobile communities to unlock the economic, employment and social opportunities between Jervis Bay Road and the Victorian border.

The roadmap will align with the *Future Transport 2056* strategy and the *Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan*. This will ensure the highway of the future delivers the key outcomes and priorities for regional transport throughout the state.



# Defining the role of regional transport

Movement and Place is the new way of thinking about the role of transport now and into the future.

It acknowledges transport has two core functions. It moves people and goods and it also contributes to the places that surround it and is itself a place to be.

This way of thinking ensures we consider the movement of transport users and its role in making better places that contribute to the liveability of communities and productivity of NSW.

We listened to community and industry leaders to understand how they want to move in the future and how a highway can better contribute to the places and economies it serves; making more liveable, better connected places to be.

- Shoalhaven City Council
- Eurobodalla Shire Council
- Bega Valley Shire Council
- Department of Primary Industries and Environment
- Destination NSW
- NSW Health
- NSW Resilience
- Rural Fire Services
- NSW Port Authority
- Road Freight NSW
- National Road Transport Association
- Timber NSW

To unlock the economic, employment and social opportunity of South Coast NSW we identified the constraints and issues of the existing highway.



**Current crash rate**



**Risk of crashes**



**Driver Fatigue**



**Access during emergencies**



**Freight constraints**



**Climate change**



**Lack of adaptability**



**Disconnected communities**



**Impact to essential utilities**



**Diversifying the region**



**Regional economic growth**



**Environment and heritage impacts**



**Freight and industry productivity**



**Connections to other transport networks**



**Digital connectivity**



**Limited modes of transport**



**Congestion**

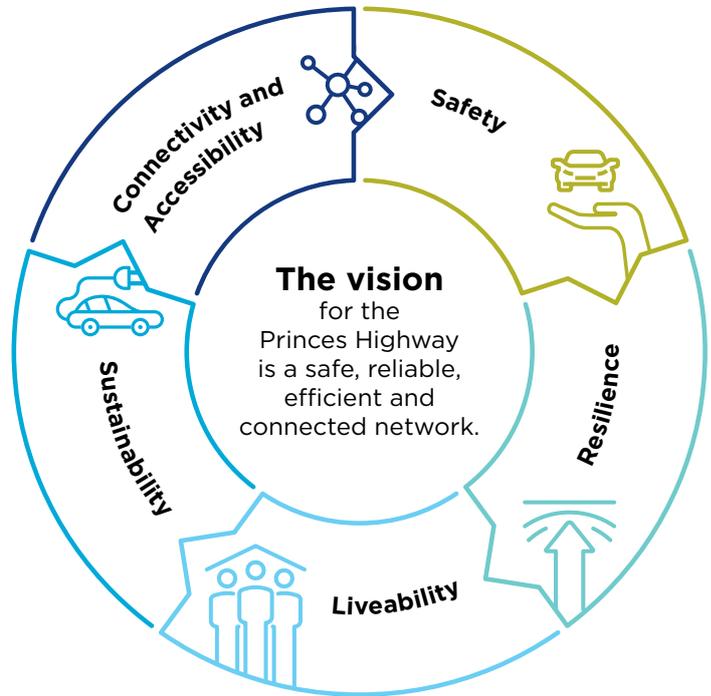


**Resource-intensive maintenance**

# The vision

It is a highway that enables the movement of people and goods and supports sustainable growth of the local economy, employment opportunities and population.

It would contribute to the character of the places it serves and is resilient to adapt to natural hazards and climate change, respond to changing land use and supports new technologies, new industries and economic trends.



## Safety:

A safer corridor for all customers and communities including local traffic, freight, tourists, and public and active transport users. It would:

- Reduce fatal and serious injury crashes on the highway and reduce head on and run off road crashes.
- Provide safe and efficient access between the Princes Highway and access roads for all customers including tourists, commuters and freight operators.
- Provide a road that is safe for short, local trips and long distance trips throughout the region.
- Provide regular, accessible and safe areas to rest for all customers including tourists and freight operators.
- Improve safety for public transport use, walking and cycling, particularly in urban centres.

## Resilience:

A corridor that can be efficiently managed and maintained while adapting to changing social, environmental and economic factors including the ability to quickly recover from natural disasters and respond to changing land use and technologies. It would:

- Provide reliable and safe access during emergency situations, including extreme weather events.
- Ensure information can be shared rapidly with customers during emergencies.
- Improve the highway's ability to protect communities from bushfires and flooding.
- Protect key utilities such as telecommunications and electricity from extreme weather events to ensure communities are provided with communication and power during such events.
- Futureproof the corridor to respond to evolving technologies.
- Adapt the corridor over time to respond to climate change impacts including rising sea levels and more frequent extreme weather events.



## Liveability:

A corridor that supports communities by connecting and contributing to providing attractive and healthy places to live, work and play. It would:

- Encourage a mix of land uses that support a diverse range of activities and people along the corridor.
- Contribute to and reinforce the character of villages and towns to provide vibrant and prosperous centres along the corridor.
- Protect and enhance the corridor's abundant natural and open spaces.
- Support access to affordable services and a range of housing options in places that people want to live.
- Support more and improved opportunities for walking and cycling along the corridor to encourage physical activity within the local community.



## Connectivity and Accessibility:

A corridor that has good physical and digital connectivity and accessibility, for access to opportunity and services. It would:

- Provide improved access to employment, services, retail and recreation for all regardless of age, socioeconomic status or ability.
- Support a range of transport options, including public and active transport, to cater for the needs of all potential customers.
- Enable and support the provision of digital and communications infrastructure.
- Provide reliable, safe north-to-south access and supports east-to-west access connectivity via the Kings and Snowy Mountains Highways.
- Ensure information can be shared rapidly with customers to support seamless journeys.

## Sustainability:

A corridor that is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable and unlocks a wide range benefits for communities and other customers. It would:

- Enable current and future use of Electric Vehicles and Connected and Automated Vehicles.
- Attract investment in villages and towns along the corridor by providing reliable and safe access to desirable places.
- Support the expansion and diversification of tourism into the region in a sustainable way.
- Support growth in employment of Aboriginal, youth, long term unemployed and refugee communities.
- Attract a dispersed work-from home workforce from major employment areas in Sydney and Canberra.
- Protect and enhance the natural environment.
- Connect communities by providing alternative and sustainable modes of transport.
- Reduce the total carbon footprint of the highway.

# Roadmap 2040

A safe, reliable, efficient and connected network.



2020

2040

## Short term

### Infrastructure priorities

- **Two lanes each way** on the Princes Highway from Nowra to Sussex Inlet Road
- **Planning for two lanes each way** on the Princes Highway from Sussex Inlet Road to Milton
- Milton Ulladulla **bypass**
- **Planning for two lanes each way** on the Princes Highway from Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay
- **Planning safety works and more overtaking lanes** from Batemans Bay to Moruya, and from Bega to Pambula
- Moruya **bypass**
- **Planning new bridges** along the whole corridor to enable heavy vehicle and freight access

### Service priorities

- **Improved** signage, helping road users find their way.
- **Intelligent** traffic management technologies. Technologies include quickly informing road users of disruptions, calling for emergency services when an accident occurs, using cameras to enforce traffic laws or digital signs that mark speed limit changes depending on conditions.
- **Improved** public and active (walking and cycling) transport.
- **Improved** rest and service areas.
- **Better services** for alternative technology vehicles, including electric.

## Medium term

### Infrastructure priorities

- **Two lanes each way** on the Princes Highway from Sussex Inlet Road to Milton and from Ulladulla to Batemans Bay
- **Safety improvements and more over taking lanes** from Moruya to Narooma
- **Safety improvements and more over taking lanes** from Batemans Bay to Narooma, from Cobargo to Broadwater and from Edrom Road to Victorian border
- **Realignment** of the Princes Highway from Tilba to Cobargo
- **Safety improvements** within Narooma and Eden
- **Safety improvements** within Batemans Bay

### Service priorities

- **Improved** fares and ticketing for public transport.
- **Enable** use of the highway by electric, connected and automatic vehicles.
- **Modernise** Transport's vehicles.
- **Deliver safety improvements** to local roads, facilitate the upgrade of utilities along the corridor to improve reliability of essential services digital connectivity.

## Longer term

### Infrastructure priorities

- **Safety improvements and more over taking lanes** from Narooma to Tilba Tilba
- **Safety improvements and more over taking lanes** from Broadwater to Eden
- **Safety improvements and more over taking lanes** from Eden to Edrom Road
- **Safety improvements** within Bega

### Service priorities

- Work with NSW South Coast stakeholders to **build the state's first electric regional highway**. This would deliver a transport network made for electric vehicles. It would provide fast-charging sites for users to easily charge their vehicle and reliably access the places along the highway.



## Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Princes Highway Upgrade Program please contact the project team on:

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