



Muswellbrook Bypass Community Consultation

Transport for NSW

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Introduction

The Hunter Business Chamber appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the Muswellbrook Bypass and comment on the project brief.

The Hunter Business Chamber (the Chamber) is the largest regional business chamber in Australia. We independently represent more than 2,500 member organisations across the Hunter region. The Chamber has a working relationship with local Chambers across the region including Singleton, Scone and Muswellbrook Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The Chamber is the peak business and industry association in the Hunter, reflecting the interests of the region's diverse business sector.

Comments

The Chamber would like to take this opportunity to provide general feedback on the priority status of the Bypass project, based on the feedback we have received from discussions with member organisations in and around the Muswellbrook area.

The Chamber has advocated and supported the planning and construction of a Muswellbrook Bypass for many years and believes the project to be a significant and influential piece of regional infrastructure. The Hunter Expressway has proved to be a massive success and likewise, the Muswellbrook Bypass is an extension of the logic that supported the Hunter Expressway.

From a local perspective, removing the heavy and through traffic movements from the Muswellbrook town centre will significantly improve the safety and amenity for the township and its community. It is anticipated this will benefit shoppers, visitors and local businesses.

The Chamber understands Transport for NSW have been engaging with the Council, the community and businesses of Muswellbrook in relation to progressing the concept and detailed design for the Bypass. We further understand a number of concerns have been raised by local stakeholders and we would anticipate Transport for NSW will work through these issues with the community and business groups to ensure this once in a lifetime opportunity is not compromised.

In brief, we understand the issues revolve around the following matters:

- (i) The absence of a connection to Coal Road.
- (ii) The absence of passing lanes in the new design which is confined to single lane in each direction.
- (iii) Consideration for safety for local road users in the vicinity of the southern connection.

- (iv) Reaching common ground for the design rationale for the northern connection and Sandy Creek Road precinct.

The Chamber acknowledges and appreciates the State Government commitment of \$266m to fund the Bypass. We are confident the issues raised at the local level will be resolved so that the project can proceed according to the projected timeline.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment and welcome further engagement on this submission if necessary.

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