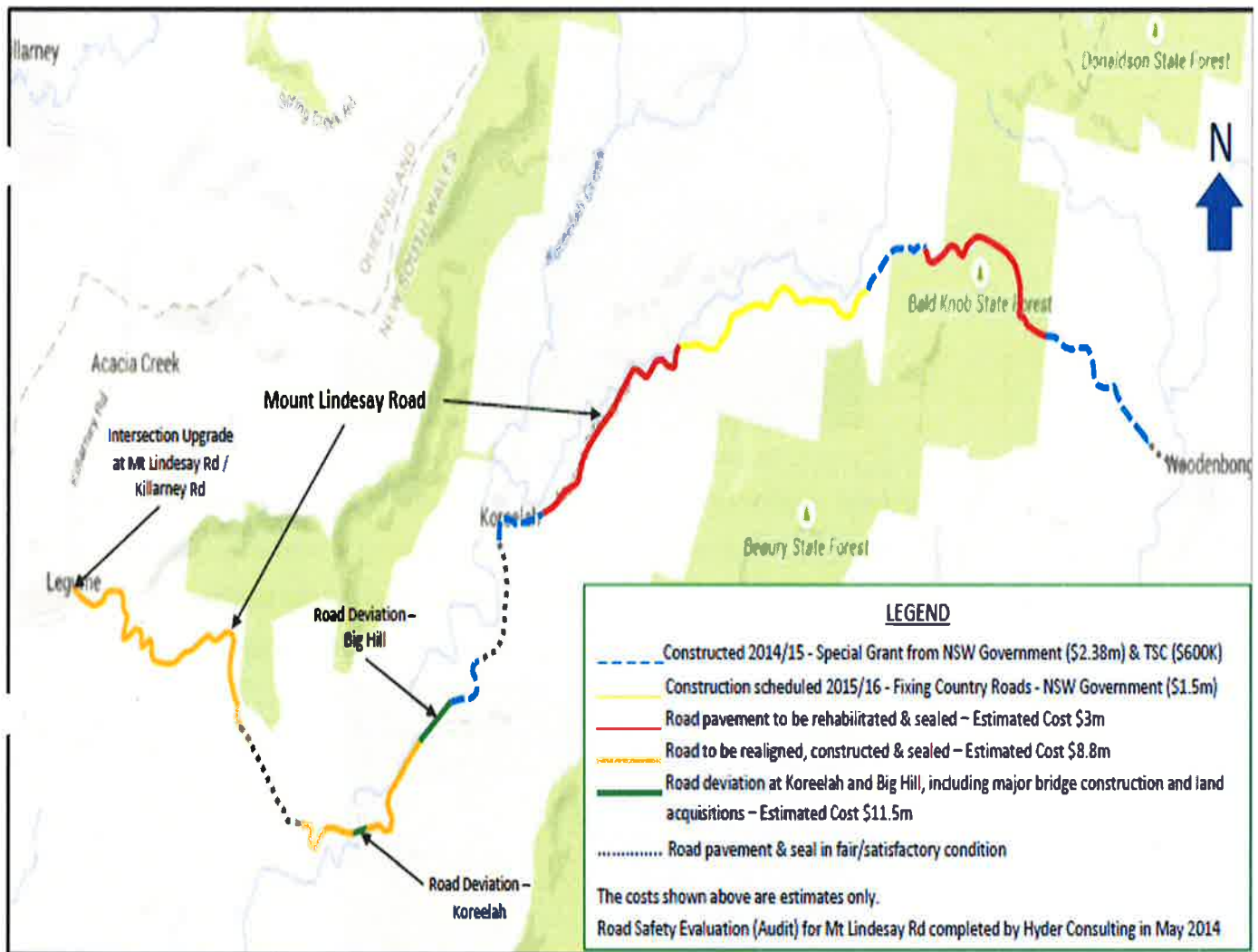


MT LINDESAY ROAD – PROGRESS REPORT

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS UNDERTAKEN IN 2014/15

In 2014/15, Tenterfield Shire Council (Council) was allocated a Special Grant of \$2.38 million from the NSW Government to upgrade three (3) sections of Mt Lindesay Road between Legume and Woodenbong. Council contributed a further \$500K to upgrade a fourth section of Mt Lindesay Road and \$100K to undertake pre-planning (survey and design) for possible road realignment and new bridges at Big Hill and Koreelah respectively (shown as a 'green' line on the below map), bringing the total project cost to almost \$3.0 million.

The four sections of Mt Lindesay Road, upgraded in 2014/15 as part of the Special Grant and Council contribution, is shown as a blue dashed line on the below map.



Mount Lindesay Road - Current and Future Upgrades

The upgrade of approximately 10.6km of Mt Lindesay Road commenced in late August 2014 using a combination of Council's day labour workforce and contractors. The work included widening the existing road formation, undertaking improvements to visibility at the tight horizontal curves, installing new and extending existing drainage culverts, and constructing new road pavement and bitumen seal.

To date, the work undertaken at Section 1 to 4 inclusive, is as follows:

- Section 1 – 4.3 kilometres of road constructed and bitumen sealed



Completed Bitumen Sealing at Section 1

- Section 4 – 2.4 kilometres of road constructed and bitumen sealed



Completed Bitumen Sealing at Section 4

- Section 3 – This section has been constructed and bitumen sealed up to respective sides of the 'Golden Mile'. The existing box culvert has been extended by about 2.4 metres to improve the carriageway width and safety at the subject location and the road pavement brought up to level in readiness for sealing. When weather conditions are more conducive, the short section of the road (about 400m) will be sealed.



Box Culvert Extension at the Golden Mile (Section 3)

- Section 2 – Works were temporarily suspended until advice was obtained from a geotechnical consultant about how best to treat the poor subgrade and sub-surface springs at the site. The geotechnical investigation and report has since been completed and a revised construction cost determined following review of the geotechnical advice and discussions with the geotechnical engineer.

The upgrade of Section 2 was unable to be completed in 2014/15 due to a funding shortfall brought about by the poor subgrade conditions encountered, time of the year (i.e. weather conditions not being conducive for road construction), and need to respond to urgent repairs to infrastructure brought about by a severe storm event of 1 May 2015.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN 2015/16

Section 2 – Approximately \$900K has been allocated from Council's 2015/16 annual budget (using part of Council's Roads to Recovery funding) to treat the poor subgrade, install additional drainage structures, and construct and seal the new road pavement at Section 2. These works are scheduled to commence in October 2015.

Fixing Country Roads – Council was successful in being allocated \$1.5 million from "Fixing Country Roads 2014/15" to construct and bitumen seal a 5.4 km section of Mt Lindesay Road (shown 'yellow' on the above map). This work is scheduled to commence in late 2015 once the detailed design and documentation has been completed. At this stage, the work is likely to be undertaken by Contract.

Jad Realignment at Big Hill and Koreelah – Council allocated \$100K from its 2014/15 annual budget to allow engineering survey and concept designs to be completed for road realignment options at Big Hill and Koreelah respectively (shown as 'green' lines on the above map). The designs options are needed to determine whether road realignment (including the provision of new bridges) at the subject locations are feasible, costs effective and stack up from a benefit-cost perspective. Funding not expended in 2014/15 was carried forward to 2015/16 to enable an engineering consultant to be engaged to prepare the design options, costings and report.

GRANT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Successful Grants

- As previously stated, Council submitted an application for grant funding under the NSW Governments "Fixing Country Roads 2014/15" program. Council was successful in being allocated \$1.5 million to upgrade a 5.4km section of Mt Lindesay Road between Section 2 and 3 respectively (shown as a 'yellow' line on the attached diagram). The upgrade is scheduled for late 2015, once the survey and detailed design has been completed.
- Council submitted an application for grant funding under the *Safer Roads State Blackspot Program*. Council was notified by letter dated 4 May 2015 of success in being allocated \$110,911 for improvements works at the intersection of Mt Lindesay Road and Acacia Scrub Road. This funding is to be matched on a dollar for dollar basis by Council, bringing the total project cost to \$221,823. Since notification of the funding in May of this year, Council has engaged a surveyor to undertake the engineering survey in readiness for preparing detailed design and documentation for the road improvement works.

Applications Submitted

- Council submitted an application for grant funding under the Commonwealth Governments 'National Stronger Regions Fund – Round 2' for an amount of \$1.5 million. This funding is to be matched on a dollar for dollar basis by Council. Announcements of successful Round 2 applications are expected in December 2015.

Funding Not Yet Received

- In January 2015, Council was verbally advised by the Hon Duncan Gay MLC, Minister for Roads & Freight, that a further \$250K had been allocated towards the upgrade of Mt Lindesay Road, with Council to match this funding on a dollar for dollar basis (bringing the total additional funds to \$500K for 2014/15). Council Officers understood the \$250K to be additional to other funding received for the Mt Lindesay Road upgrade, however this assumption was incorrect. Council's Mayor and General Manager has lobbied the Local Member for Lismore, the Hon Thomas George, about the funding commitment and Council understands that the funding is to be reinstated. At this time, Council is not in receipt of written confirmation of the \$250K funding from the State Government.

Stephen Bell

Director Engineering Services