August 2020

The detailed design has now been completed and submitted to Council for review. Concurrently, Council’s Project Managers are finalising the specification and tender documentation for the Towamba and Burragate Road Upgrade Project and will proceed to Public Tender in September 2020, for Council resolution and award at the Council Meeting of 28 October 2020. Works will commence in November 2020.

July 2020

During August 2020, the detailed design, specification and tender documentation for the Towamba and Burragate Road Upgrade Project will be finalised and proceed to Public Tender in September 2020. Recommendations from the Tender will be presented for Council resolution and award at the Council Meeting of 28 October 2020. This process has taken longer than originally planned due to the challenges of balancing the upgrade scope and design, to meet the minimum design and safety standards for rural roads, against the available funding. The tender package will be for the full scope of the upgrade project, but will include separable portions and schedules of rates, in the event the tender submissions exceed the available funding. Council will seek additional State and Federal funding if a shortfall exists, once the tender process is completed. Works will commence, nevertheless, in November 2020, to the limit of available funding.

June 2020

Council and the design consultants met with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) representatives following a technical submission that outlined the current constraints to providing the ideal design with respect to budget, topography, pavement design and environmental impact. The workshop was positive with agreement on the suggested way forward and items to be value managed down in order to be able to deliver an upgraded and fully sealed road.

With the process now mapped out and agreed with TfNSW, the final iteration of design work can commence with finalisation and subsequent release of construction tender to follow in the next two months.

May 2020

Preliminary engineering design for all three sections of the Towamba and Burragate Roads upgrade project were completed in the past month, and submitted for Council review. The project cost estimate was also updated based on these preliminary designs, which allowed accurate calculation of quantities, volumes and surface areas.

As the updated cost estimate exceeded the project funding, Council and their design engineers undertook a series of value management workshops to identify options to refine the design in order to match the project budget, and still achieve the project objectives. Design refinements include adjusting pavement width to minimise earthworks and environmental impacts and optimising the pavement design. This design refinement process will be occurring, in conjunction with the project funding partner, Transport for NSW, in the coming month.
A community information briefing on the project status is proposed by the Council and consultant project teams, in accordance with COVID 19 social distancing restrictions, later in June 2020.

April 2020

GHD Pty Ltd have continued with engineering design work on the Towamba and Burragate Roads upgrade project this month, with submission of the first section of concept design to Council for review. The final geotechnical report and pavement design has also been submitted, along with a report on the inspection and condition assessment of all the culvert crossings along the route. The assessment has identified a number of culverts that are no longer serviceable and will be included in the design documentation for upgrade or replacement.

The project is currently programmed to proceed to construction tender in June 2020, with Contract award likely in August 2020

March 2020

Bega Valley Shire Council’s consultants GHD have continued work on the Towamba and Burragate Roads in March. Following completion of the detailed survey, GHD have been assessing the current road geometry and existing conditions to establish the design speed environment, which has a flow on effect to the geometric design of the new road. GHD have also been progressing the pavement design to manage factors such as availability of conforming material in a remote location, as well as design life and durability.

GHD has also been progressing the bushfire recovery scope along the affected section of Towamba Road and will be submitting a finalised investigation and design options report to Council this month for review.

The project is currently programmed to proceed to tender in June 2020, with construction likely to start in August 2020.

February 2020

With the completion of site investigations and draft report submissions, the design phase of the project was commenced during February 2020. Council’s consultants GHD have begun the engineering design services and will present concept plans and layouts to Council during March 2020.

Subsequent to this, GHD has also attended the bushfire-affected areas of Towamba Road alongside Council staff to assess, map and provide recommendations for the remediation of damaged assets. This includes culverts, road signs, barriers and retaining structures. GHD is providing further geotechnical advice to Council in regards to slope stability in and around some of the damaged retaining structures, particularly following the heavy rains experienced in the aftermath of the bushfire.
December 2019 & January 2020

Council’s consultants GHD have been progressing the project throughout December and January with completion of the site survey, geotechnical and environmental site investigations. With approximately 50% of Towamba Road affected by bushfires, GHD have returned to site to further assess environmental conditions and impact of the fires on vegetation along the road corridor. Some structural damage was also observed in the fire-affected area, particularly damage to timber log retaining structures.

Notwithstanding impact of the bushfires, final site investigations, reporting and survey is due early February which activates the engineering design process. Users of the road are reminded that there may be further site investigations required throughout the design process. Users may notice unusual activity on the roadway during these periods. These activities will extend over the full length of the presently unsealed parts of Towamba Road and Burragate Road.

Drivers are requested to be on the lookout for stationary and moving vehicles and excavation plant working within the roadway and to pass safely at reduced speed. Traffic controllers will be deployed as required.

November 2019

Council’s consultants GHD have been progressing the project, looking to have survey and investigation works commencing on site in December 2019.

The scheduled dates for these activities on site are as follows:

- Survey: 4-20 December 2019;
- Geotechnical investigations: 9-14 December 2019;

Users of the road may notice unusual activity on the roadway during these periods. These activities will extend over the full length of the presently unsealed parts of Towamba Road and Burragate Road.

Drivers are requested to be on the lookout for stationary and moving vehicles and excavation plant working within the roadway and to pass safely at reduced speed. Traffic controllers will be deployed as required.

The engineering design for the road upgrading works will commence in early 2020, once the analysis of survey, geotechnical and environmental data have been completed. These investigation works are necessary to allow the works to be delivered efficiently within the available funds and with any environmental impacts kept to a minimum.

Council has also met with the funding body, NSW Roads and Maritime Services, confirming that the project is progressing as planned.