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# Attachments

**UNDER SEPARATE COVER  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**6:00 PM, TUESDAY, 29 September, 2020**

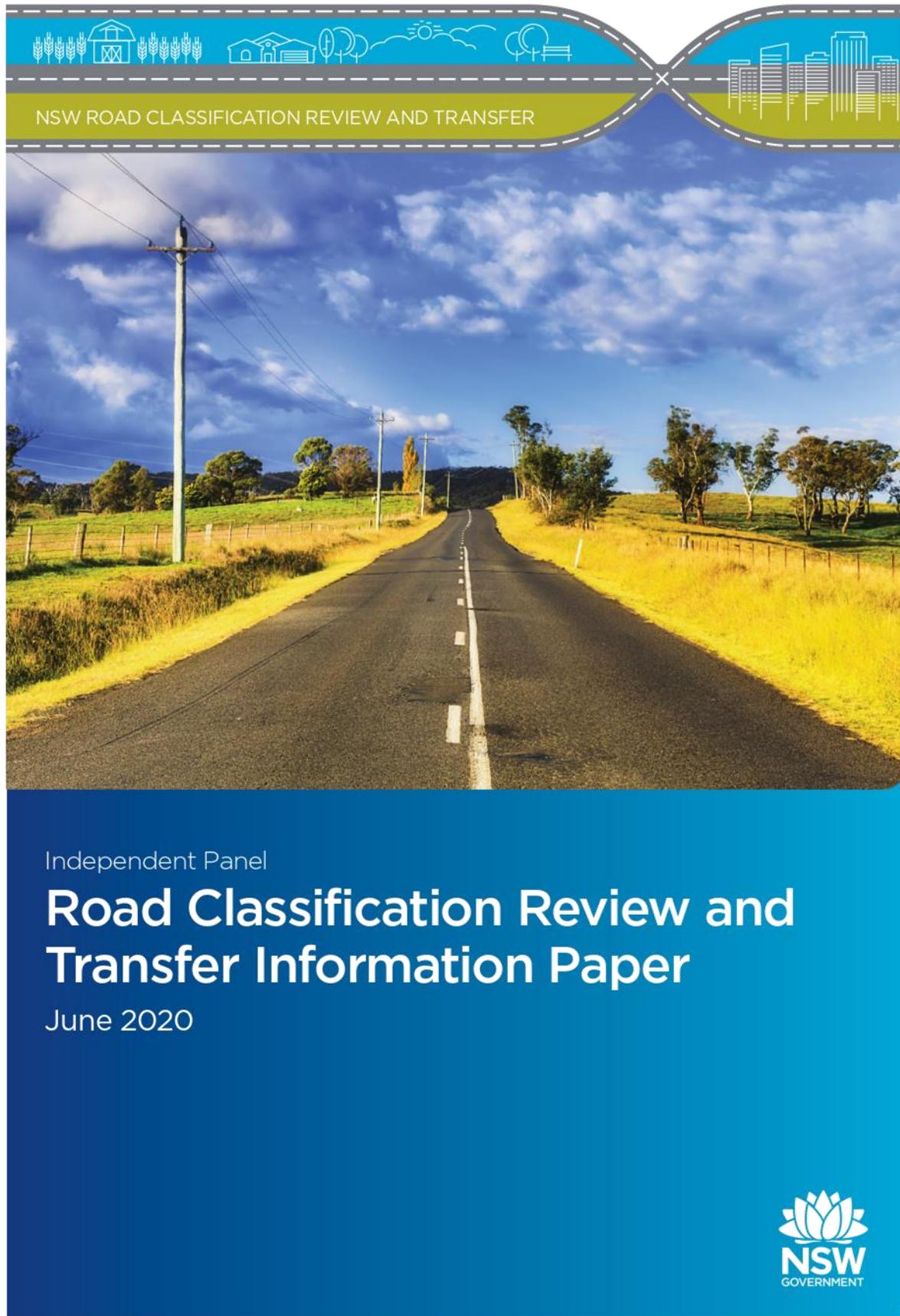


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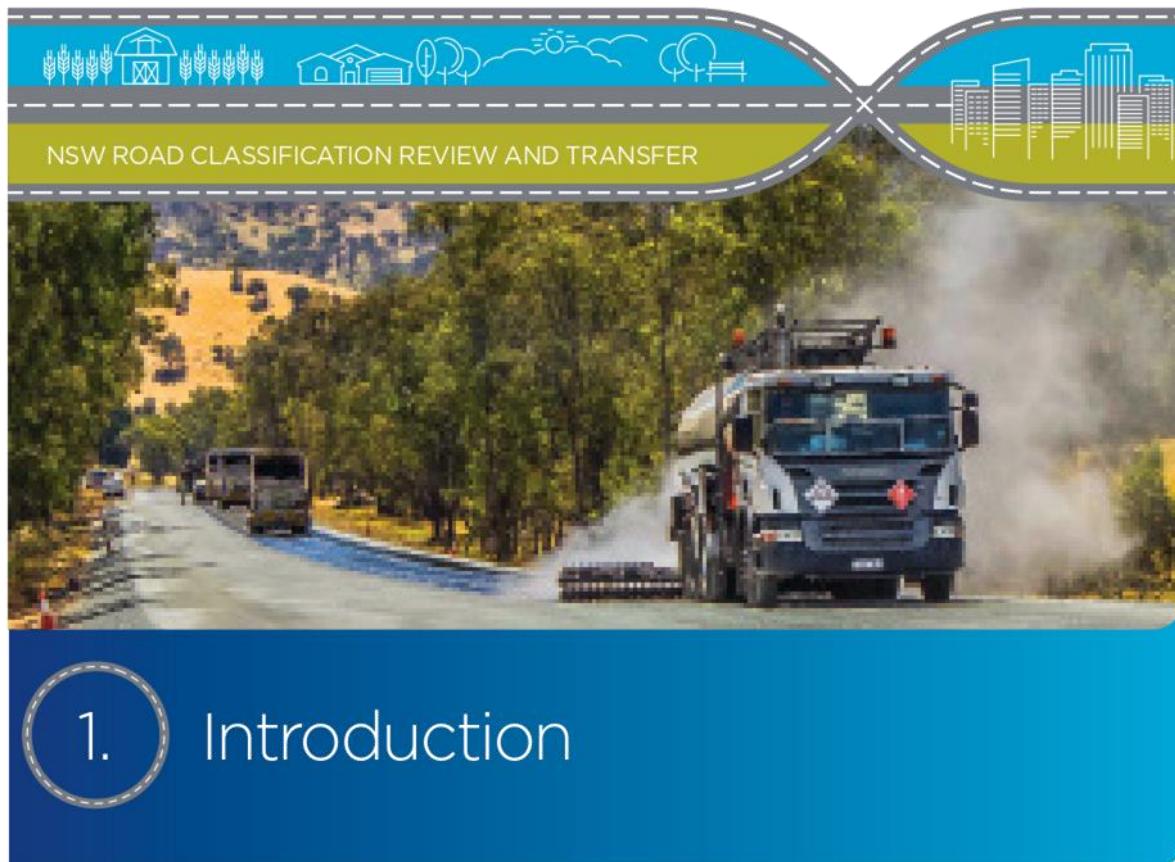
### 8.8.3 NSW Road Classification Review and Transfer

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NSW ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVIEW AND TRANSFER

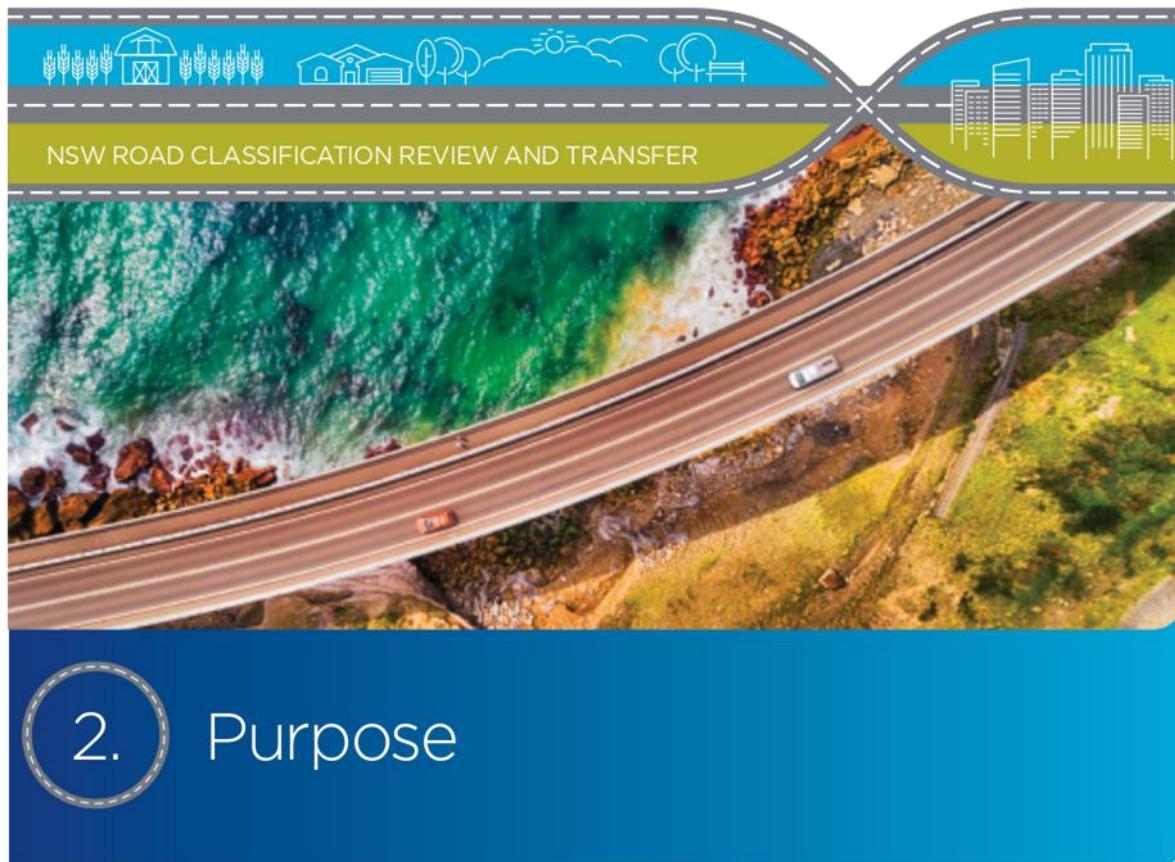
## 1. Introduction

In February 2019, the Deputy Premier and Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight announced the initiation of a Road Classification Review and the transfer of up to 15,000 kilometres of council owned and managed roads to State management. These commitments are now being carried forward as the Road Classification Review and Transfer project, led by an Independent Panel.

This project combines a comprehensive review of road classifications around NSW with broader considerations around how we think about our road network and its capacity to meet the needs of industry and the community. To make informed and meaningful recommendations to government, the Independent Panel is entering into a conversation with our biggest road managers – local councils – and other stakeholders and road users to find out how we can best manage our roads, sustain healthy communities, promote their economies and work together to support a cohesive, well run road network.

This background paper sets out the division between Local, Regional and State Roads and describes the features of each category. All of this information – how our road network is managed, maintained, funded and categorised – is being opened to consultation. At the same time, a priority round of submissions for reclassification and transfer will run as the first phase of the project.

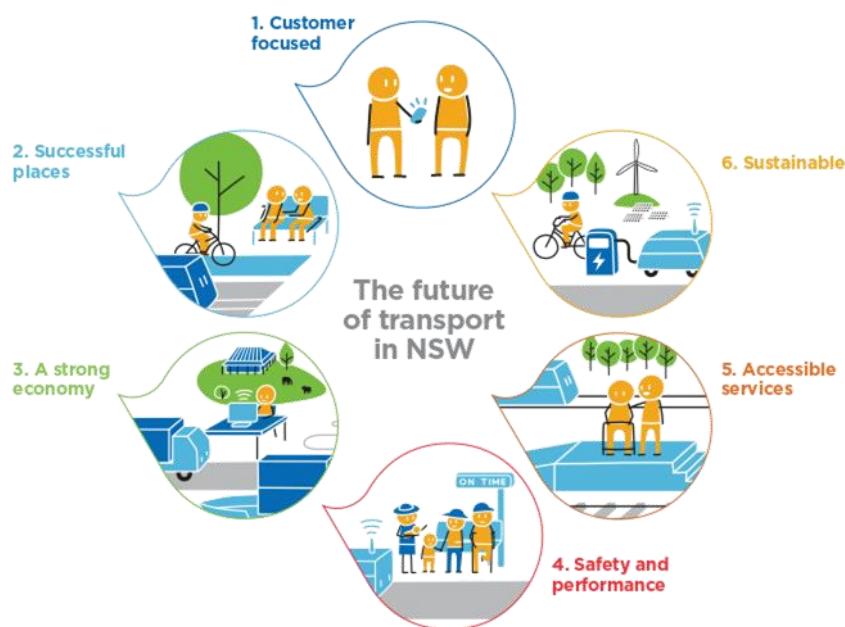
The scale of this project is significant. All interested parties are asked to critically assess the content of this document and engage with the Independent Panel through the consultation process to inform the review and make the changes that will improve the ongoing management of the road network.



The graphic features a winding road that transitions from a rural landscape with a farm and trees to an urban landscape with a city skyline. The road is marked with a dashed line and a 'X' symbol. The text 'NSW ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVIEW AND TRANSFER' is overlaid on the top part of the road. Below the road, there is a photograph of a multi-lane highway with cars, set against a backdrop of green hills and a body of water.

## 2. Purpose

Future Transport 2056 and its supporting plans require a regular review of the policy principles that underpin the road classification framework to ensure that they align with its six core outcomes.



The Road Classification Review has been initiated because:

- a) A review of existing road classifications should occur on a regular basis to maintain the integrity of the road network to support planning, policy making and the equitable distribution of resources.
- b) An issue has been identified in some council areas with the cost of maintaining regional roads, or with the standard of maintenance of some regional roads.
- c) There is an opportunity to make adjustments to individual road classifications and to re-examine the current classification framework to better align with current and developing State and national frameworks.

The Independent Panel has been established to consider a broad range of issues to:

- Lighten the load on councils by identifying which roads are appropriately managed by the State Government, and which are of sufficient significance to receive State funding
- Consider larger-scale changes to the management of the road network such as levels of service, design standards, the collection and validation of data and reporting
- Consider how technologies of the future can be accommodated on the NSW road network.

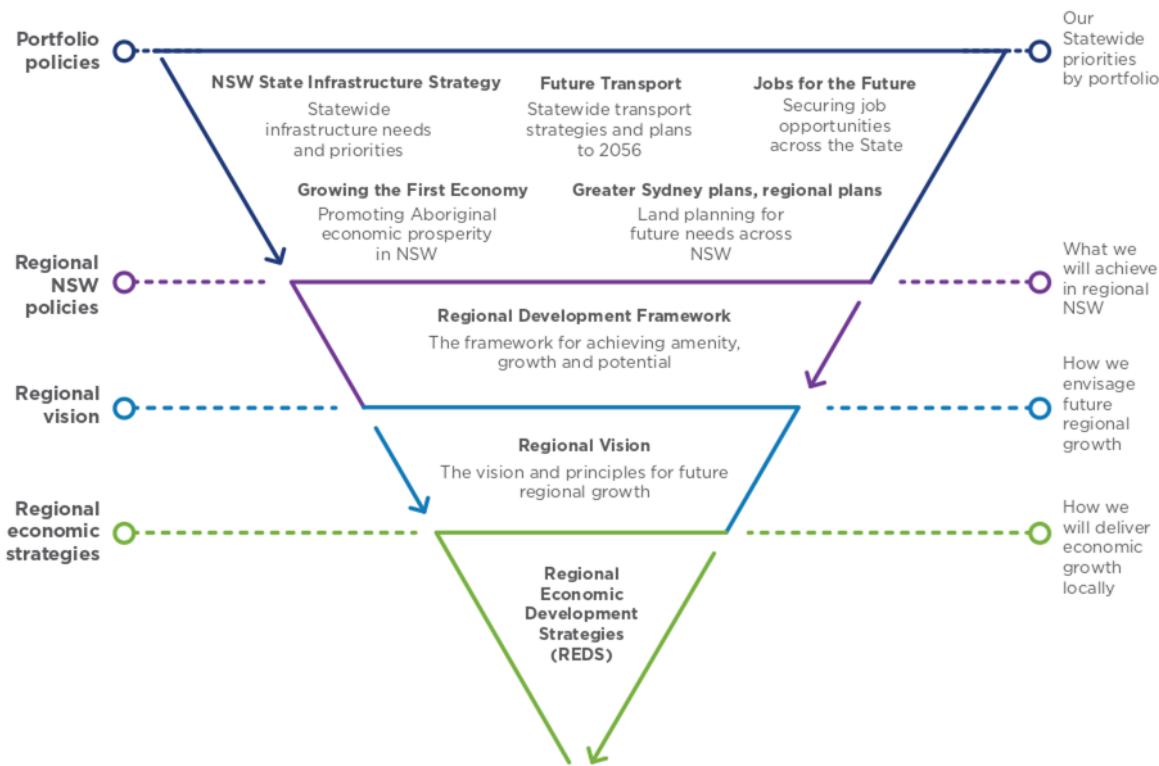
Clear and logical road classification matters. Apart from assigning management responsibility between jurisdictions and directing funding, classifications matter fundamentally to the experience of the road user. Even where the technical aspects of classification may be unknown to an average driver, cyclist or pedestrian, its effects will be communicated through the design and usage of the road. These elements are known to influence road user behaviour. A clear and strategic set of principles, consistently applied, is foundational to improving customer experience and safety on the network.

## 2. Purpose

### 2.1 A 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW

A 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW is a comprehensive vision for the future of regional NSW. It lays out a priority pathway to support the acceleration of regional growth and the long-term health and prosperity of the State.

The 20-year vision sets out the interaction of regional plans and strategies as follows:



The vision recognises several key principles aligned with the economic enablers that support the review of regional roads and networks, including:





NSW ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVIEW AND TRANSFER

### 3. Key terms

#### 3.1 Road classification

The process of classifying roads is a mechanism used by the State government to assist in the effective allocation of State government road funds, and the allocation of road management responsibility between State and Local Government jurisdictions.

The *Roads Act 1993* provides for roads to be classified as Freeways, Controlled Access Roads, Tollways, State Highways, Main Roads, Secondary Roads, Tourist Roads, Transitways and State Works. These classified roads include all State Roads and some Regional Roads.

To simplify the administration of the various legal road classes, roads in NSW are also grouped into a three-tier administrative classification of State, Regional and Local Roads. These are not statutory categories but are agreed between levels of government and used to determine who is responsible for the management of a road and what type of funding it can receive.

#### 3.2 Functional classification

This is the most common type of classification system. Road function is an element of any system that considers either how roads behave or how they would desirably behave as part of the network to define a classification framework.

In theory, the purpose of a functional classification is that traffic should flow in a logical way through road networks within the same functional category. This drives customer expectations and behaviour, and influences place-making and road safety.

A potential limitation of functional classification is that it may fail to reflect newer thinking about movement and place. Many roads have a mixed character, and a functional classification may need a degree of flexibility to be able to reflect both a road's form, or structural characteristics (which may indicate a variety of functions), as well as its place in the broader road network.

### 3. Key terms

#### 3.3 Administrative classification

This classification assigns a category to roads on the basis of who is responsible for its management.

There is a view that the functional and administrative classifications should exactly align, and that functional hierarchy is able to also determine management arrangements for each road type. As classification systems are not an exact science, how far this is true

will vary between policy makers and according to circumstances. However, neither can they be entirely separated. The State, Regional and Local road categories are primarily administrative as they are assigned to indicate who is responsible for the management of a road and reflect the funding arrangements for that road. However, the categories are also broadly applied to describe the role the road plays in the network.

The infographic illustrates the administrative classification of roads into three categories: State Roads, Regional Roads, and Local Roads. Each category is represented by a magnifying glass icon focusing on a specific road type, with a corresponding illustration of the road and its surroundings.

- State Roads:** Represented by a blue magnifying glass focusing on a major arterial link. The illustration shows a large truck and a car on a road leading into a city with tall buildings.
- Regional Roads:** Represented by a yellow magnifying glass focusing on a route of secondary importance. The illustration shows a truck and a car on a road passing through a rural area with a barn and fields.
- Local Roads:** Represented by a blue magnifying glass focusing on a road providing local circulation and access. The illustration shows a car, a motorcycle, and a van on a road through a residential area with houses and trees.

**State Roads** are major arterial links throughout the State and within major urban areas which are the responsibility of the State government to fund and prioritise, due to their significance in the network. State Roads include roads classified under the *Roads Act 1993* as Freeways, State Highways and Important Main Roads.

**Regional Roads** are routes of secondary importance between State Roads and Local Roads. Some Regional-classified roads are located within metropolitan areas. They are designated Regional based on their significance rather than their geographical location. Regional Roads include roads classified under the Act as Secondary Roads and the less significant Main Roads. They also include some roads not classified under the Act. It is the responsibility of councils to fund, prioritise and carry out works on Regional Roads. They are eligible for funding assistance from the State government in recognition of their importance to the network.

**Local Roads** are the remaining council-controlled roads which provide for local circulation and access. It is the responsibility of councils to fund, prioritise and carry out works on Local Roads. Local Roads are eligible for State government grant funding to support maintenance through the \$500m Fixing Local Roads program as well as Financial Assistance Grant funding through the Federal Government.



### 3.4 Joint Organisations

In NSW, Joint Organisations (JOs) are a legislated network of council groups designed to strengthen regional collaboration.

JOs are voluntary groupings of non-metropolitan councils. There are currently 13 JOs across the State, which work to:

- Establish strategic priorities for the region and plans for the delivery of priorities
- Advocate for regional priorities
- Provide region-wide leadership
- Identify opportunities for inter-government cooperation.

Bodies such as JOs may be engaged in the development of reclassification and transfer submissions. Roads of any class may cross local government boundaries, and roads of the Regional class are likely to cross multiple Local Government Areas.

Councils choosing not to become part of a JO may lodge an individual submission or collaborate with other Local Government Areas to develop their submissions.

### 3.5 Functional Economic Region

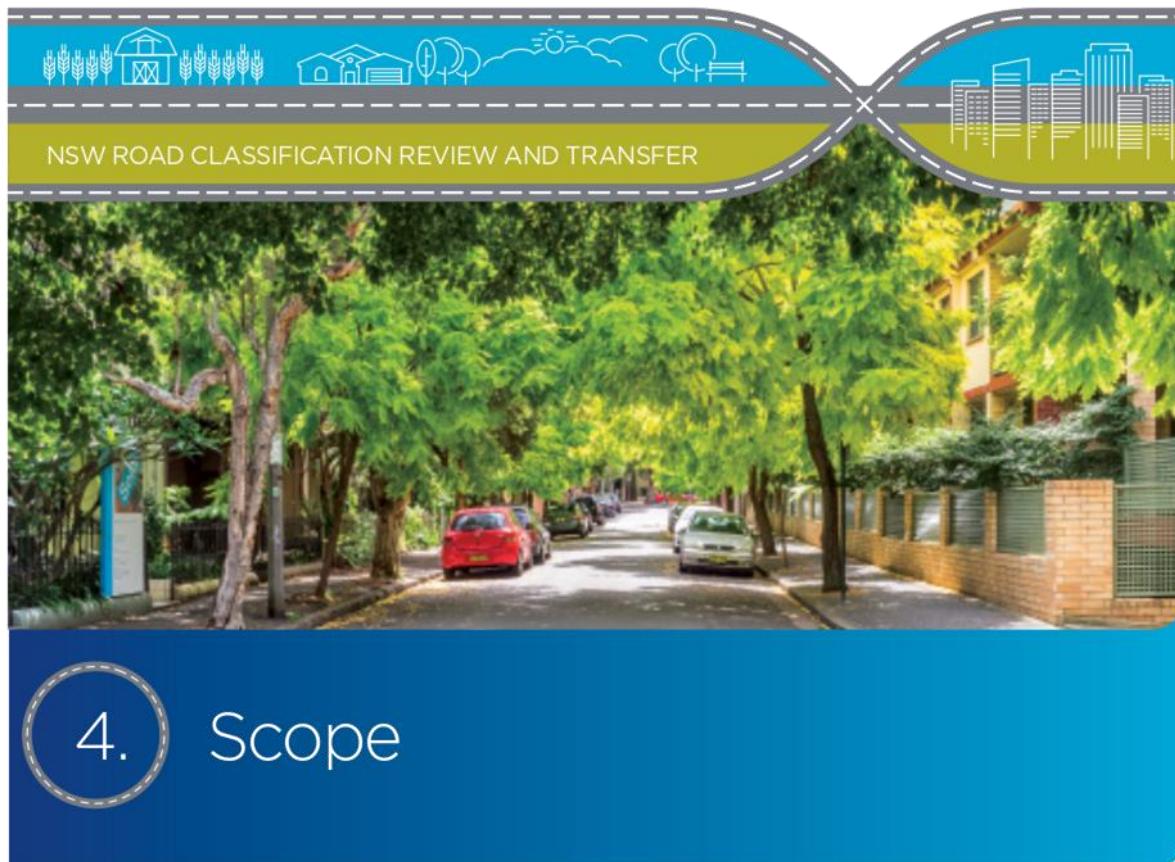
Functional Economic Regions (FERs) are groupings of regional communities with strong economic links, which are thought of as creating smaller economies within the Statewide economy. Regional NSW is divided into 37 FERs, with groupings based on economic data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

A map of the NSW FERs can be found at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/regional-nsw/a-20-year-economic-vision-for-regional-nsw/regional-nsw-today/>.

### 3.6 Regional Economic Development Strategies

Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS) are developed in line with the FERs, in that they are strategies which apply to the groupings of Local Government Areas known as FERs. REDS are strategies that can guide the economic development activity of councils and businesses in a FER. They may help the Local Government Areas in a particular FER to access State funding, comply with State legislation governing infrastructure investment, and support grant applications to State and Federal Government.

A REDS may also apply to a single Local Government Area, where it is based on a FER comprising only one Local Government Area, although this is rare.

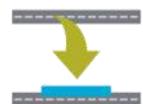


## 4. Scope

### 4.1 Within scope



- **For classification review:** All Local Government Areas Statewide may submit any road for reclassification as part of the review. Submissions should align as far as possible with the criteria and principles to be released by the Independent Panel.



- **For transfer:** Regional Councils, which are consistent with the regional boundaries under Restart NSW, may submit council owned regional roads for transfer.

Where a road that is the subject of a submission crosses Local Government Area boundaries, every attempt should be made to present a joint submission to the Panel. If a submission is made to transfer or reclassify part of a road, the Panel may be unable to conduct a satisfactory assessment.

The Panel may look favourably on joint submissions, including those supported by Joint Organisations or other collaborative groupings or bodies, or with an awareness of the significance, operation and promotion of Functional Economic Regions (FERs) and Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS).

### 4.2 Out of scope

The Panel will not consider:

- Proposals to **transfer** council owned regional roads located in Greater Sydney, Wollongong or Newcastle. A list of eligible councils is attached to this document.

If councils are unsure whether their application for reclassification or transfer is eligible for consideration, they are advised to contact the Secretariat in the first instance.



The graphic at the top features a stylized road with a dashed line forming a loop. Inside the loop, there are icons representing rural and urban environments: a farm, a garage, a sun, clouds, trees, and a city skyline. Below the road is a green banner with the text 'NSW ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVIEW AND TRANSFER'. The main image below shows a construction scene on a dirt road. A white truck with a yellow tank is driving towards the camera. In the background, there are orange construction vehicles and a road roller. The sky is clear and blue.

## 5. Principles

### 5.1 Strategic principles

These strategic principles will inform the high-level decision-making of the Panel.

That the submission:

- Aligns with the Movement and Place, Hub and Spoke and 30-Minute City frameworks underpinning Future Transport 2056
- Aligns with the six outcomes for NSW identified in Future Transport 2056
- Aligns with *A 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW* and related regional plans and strategies
- Aligns with freight policy
- Supports and promotes the economic productivity of the region
- Supports or enhances the resilience of the network
- Aligns with emergency management planning
- Enhances road safety outcomes.

### 5.2 Road Classification Review

#### 5.2.1 Current classification framework

The *Roads Act 1993* sets out a seven-tier framework for classified roads in NSW. These categories are:

- Main roads
- Highways
- Freeways
- Controlled access roads
- Secondary roads
- Tourist roads
- Tollways/Transitways.

In NSW, a simplified three-tier administrative classification framework is used to define management and funding categories, as well as to cover types of roads which are not described in the *Roads Act* (the Act does not apply to unclassified roads, which include Local Roads and some Regional Roads).

## 5. Principles

The classifications are:

- **State Roads:** freeways and primary arterials managed by the State
- **Regional Roads:** secondary or sub-arterials managed by Local Government, for which councils receive financial assistance from the State, reflecting their importance in the road network
- **Local Roads:** collector and local access roads, managed and funded by Local Government.

These definitions are a guideline only, to which there are exceptions. For example, the State government has responsibility for some roads with a special purpose or function, such as major tourist roads.

These administrative categories have been in place since 1995. They do not exist in the legislation but by agreement between the levels of government.

### 5.2.2 Classification criteria

#### State Road

General principles:

- Form a critical network link – closure to through traffic is not an option
- Priority to safety and efficiency of through traffic movement
- High flows of general traffic over long distances and high capacity relative to surrounding roads
- Continuous and regularly spaced in relation to traffic generating density
- Access to property and on street parking restricted as far as practicable
- Access available to all general access vehicle types as far as practicable
- Generally prioritises 'movement' over 'place'
- Provides for mass transit, smart motorways and high-volume freight where applicable
- Likely to form a major 'spoke' between regional centres or between regional and metropolitan centres
- Provides safe and efficient movement of high-volume freight
- Provides access for significant freight vehicles to major rural intermodal interchanges and urban distribution areas
- Support regional or State-significant economic activity
- Support 30-minute cities, where applicable

- May form a future autonomous vehicle/truck platooning route
- Perform city-shaping corridor or city-serving corridor functions (metropolitan areas).

#### Definition

The State Road network (including the National Highways) is formed by the primary network of principal traffic carrying and linking routes for the movement of people and goods within the urban centres of Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and Central Coast, and throughout the State.

#### Criteria

A road may be a State Road if its primary function meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. **Links major commercial, industrial and residential areas and distribution centres and ports within the Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and Central Coast urban centres**
  - Urban centres as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and
  - Primary through traffic route carrying significant volumes of traffic, or
  - Major public transport corridor, or
  - Major freight corridors, or
  - Connection between major rural arterials and major ports, freight terminals and distribution centres, or
  - Significant and essential supplementary route for through traffic parallel to a primary route as defined by the above, in critical strategic locations only.
- 2(a) **Links major NSW towns with the Sydney, Newcastle, Central Coast and Wollongong urban centres**
- 2(b) **Links these major NSW towns with each other where there is significant interaction**
  - Major towns population generally in the range 10,000 to 100,000 but may include slightly smaller centres which provide a wide range of commercial, community and administrative functions to an extensive hinterland, and
  - Primary route exhibiting best operational features and an intention to manage as the major route, and
  - Significant economic and social interaction exhibited, and



- Generally carry a minimum Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) greater than 1,000, or at least greater than 500 and growing at a faster rate than on surrounding roads, and
- May include cross border links to interState major centres.

**3. Links major regions throughout the State with each other**

- Provides a long distance connection between regions not already provided for in the network defined by the above criteria or 'missing links' that complete long distance connections between the network already defined by the above, and
- Sustains a high flow of general traffic (generally AADT greater than 500) over long distances (100km), or
- Significant long distance freight or coach route.

### Regional Road

#### **General principles**

- Likely to prioritise 'movement' over 'place'
- May form a 'spoke' road depending on road's location and function.

#### Definition

Regional Roads comprise the secondary network which, together with State Roads, provide for travel between smaller towns and districts and perform a sub-arterial function within major urban centres.

#### Criteria

A road may be a regional road if its primary function meets at least one of the following criteria:

- 1. Links** smaller towns within the State Road network
- 2. Connects** smaller towns with each other
- 3. Performs** a sub-arterial function in major urban centres by:
  - **Supplementing** the State Road network for significant intra-urban flows
  - **Providing** access for significant flows to other commercial and industrial centres
- 4. Provides access from the State Road network to major recreation and tourist areas of State significance**
- 5. Provides a town or suburban centre relief route for significant flows through traffic, especially freight vehicles**

**6. Provides access for significant flows of freight vehicles to major rural intermodal interchanges and urban distribution areas.**

#### Additional tests for regional roads

A road is potentially a Regional Road if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Forms the main regional link between population centres either directly or as part of the main route joining such centres
- Forms the main regional link between secondary suburban centres either directly or as part of the main route joining such centres
- Provides necessary connectivity between State Roads in urban areas
- Joins smaller service towns to their higher order economic and social regional centre
- Has significance for more than one Local Government Area
- If not otherwise connecting centres, functions as a collector road to a service town serving an extensive catchment area
- Carries a steady to increasing traffic volume with some potential for future growth
- Is an important route for significant flows of freight vehicles especially relative short haul farm to market/ transport intermodal interchanges
- Provides access for secondary flows of urban public transport to major transport interchanges
- Carries a minimum AADT that is similar to surrounding main roads
- Is a main route performing the functions of closed railway line
- Provides a relief route for significant flows of through traffic, especially for heavy vehicles wishing to bypass a busy town or suburban centre.

A road is potentially NOT a Regional Road if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Closely parallels a State Road or another Regional Road which performs a similar function. Thus in rural areas where capacity is not a problem, arguments that a road relieves an existing declared road normally are not valid
- Carries a non-substantial, steady to declining traffic volume with little prospect for future growth
- Is a short spur road wholly within one LGA
- Is a short spur road to a local tourist feature (as distinct from a tourist area of regional significance)

## 5. Principles

- Is a short spur road to a low throughput wharf, railway or other facility which is of local rather than regional significance
- Functions more as a local access road and acts as a minor collector serving a small catchment area with volumes steadily decreasing along the length of the road
- Overservices an area where land use has become less intensive and products have reduced time sensitivity (e.g. dairying) and rural populations have fallen
- Has no significant development requirements in the foreseeable future.

### Local Roads

Local Roads support local access and circulation. Local Roads do not meet the criteria for either Regional or State classification. Local Roads:

- Have the primary function of supporting local access and circulation
- Are likely to prioritise 'place' and 'local streets' over 'movement'
- Provide access to and from properties
- Provide key first and last mile connections to key freight sites as part of a road freight network involving Regional and State roads.

### **5.2.3 Other conditions**

The Panel will evaluate all submissions independently against the published criteria. Councils will have the opportunity to review the outcome of their reclassification submission with the Panel.

## 5.3 Regional Road Transfer

### **5.3.1 Transfer criteria**

The Regional Road Transfer initiative will consider the transfer of responsibility for the management of council owned regional roads from Local to State government.

All submissions will be weighed to determine the issues, risks and benefits of any recommendation for transfer, and whether transfer is the most appropriate response likely to achieve the best outcome for the network.

Roads submitted for consideration under the Regional Road Transfer initiative must meet the following criterion for eligibility:

- The road is a council owned regional road located outside Greater Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

### **5.3.2 Other conditions**

Councils should note that the selection of priority submissions is at the discretion of the Panel and that alignment with conditions and principles will not automatically lead to the transfer of any Regional-classified road, priority or otherwise. This will be an assessment exercise whereby the rationale, benefits, risks, cost and timing of the submission will be evaluated by the Panel.

If a council is unsuccessful in the priority round of submissions, they are encouraged to submit an application in future rounds.

## **5.4 Priority consideration**

Some roads may be selected by the Panel for priority consideration and recommended for reclassification or transfer in an early tranche of recommendations to government.

Criteria for priority consideration include, but are not limited to, a road which is:

- Subject to a government commitment; or
- council is able to demonstrate past or current difficulty in meeting the demands associated with maintaining the road in the short, medium and/or long term to the standard which allows the road to perform as intended as part of the broader network.

It is also desirable that priority submissions be uncontested by other councils, road users or any government department.

The assignment of priority status does not guarantee that any or all rehabilitation works will be undertaken within a specified time frame or that the standard of the road, where relevant, will be increased within a specified time frame.

Where the Panel's recommendations are accepted by government, the reclassification and transfer of roads will be staged according to a timeline to be developed by government.



The logo for the NSW Road Classification Review and Transfer project features a stylized road with a dashed line forming a loop, transitioning from a rural landscape with a barn and trees to an urban landscape with a city skyline. Below the road is a green banner with the text 'NSW ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVIEW AND TRANSFER'. Below the banner is a photograph of a two-lane asphalt road with white dashed lines, surrounded by green trees and a clear blue sky.

## 6. Frequently asked questions

### 1. What is the purpose of the Road Classification Review and Transfer?

The Road Classification Review and Transfer is made up of two initiatives being delivered as one project:

- Road Classification Review
- Regional Road Transfer.

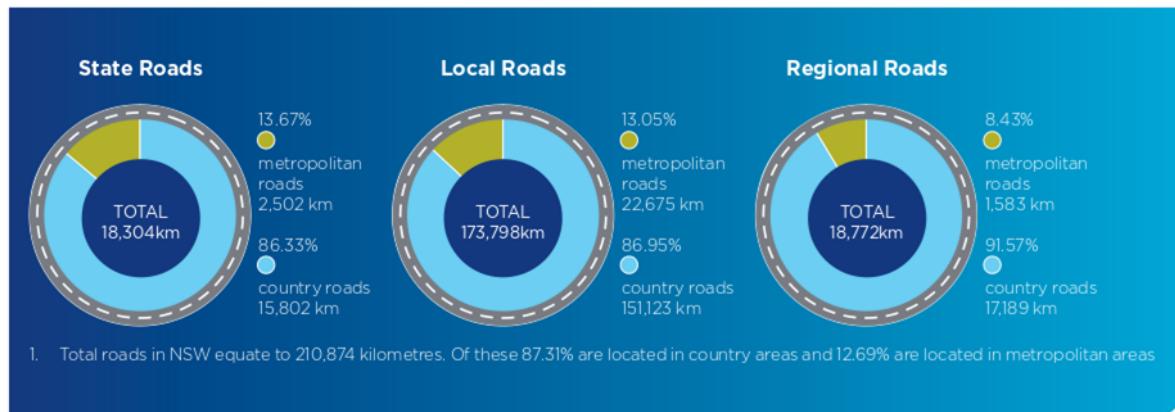
As part of business as usual activities, road classifications across the State need to be evaluated on a regular basis. Road managers periodically need the opportunity to seek reclassification where the function or usage pattern of a road has changed, perhaps due to the construction of new transport infrastructure or changes in population density. This process will ensure that roads are being appropriately managed and funded, in line with the role they play in the network.

The transfer of up to 15,000 kilometres of regional roads to State management aims to lighten the load on regional and rural councils who are finding the maintenance of their council owned regional roads difficult or even unmanageable. This class of road has broader significance for the State, which is reflected in the financial assistance provided by government to councils for their maintenance. However, councils have made representations to government over a number of years to ask for further relief with some of these roads. The return of certain Regional Roads to State management will ensure they are able to be maintained in line with their significance to the broader network, and in a way that supports the social and economic health of communities across the State.

The overall purpose of the project is to contribute to a better managed, contemporary road network for NSW, with benefits that include supporting regional growth, ensuring the funding available to maintain our roads is appropriately distributed, and promoting healthy communities through place-making and engaging with other forms of transport.

## 6. Frequently asked questions

The current breakdown of Regional and Local roads in metropolitan and country NSW is as follows:



### 2. Which councils are eligible to make submissions for road reclassification?

All councils across NSW are invited to participate in the Road Classification Review. This means providing feedback on the policy principles that decide how roads are classified as State, Regional or Local. It also means that every council in NSW will have the opportunity to submit individual roads to be reclassified between any of these categories.

Submissions may also be made by Transport for NSW. These submissions will be evaluated against the published criteria by the Independent Panel.

### 3. Which councils are eligible to make submissions for Regional Road transfer?

Eligibility has been determined based on Restart NSW boundaries. A list of councils eligible to submit their council owned regional roads for transfer is Appendix 1 to this paper. It includes all councils outside Greater Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

The majority of NSW's regional roads are located outside metropolitan areas, although a small number are located within metropolitan areas. Where metropolitan councils believe their council owned regional roads are no longer performing as Regional Roads, and are therefore receiving inadequate funding, they will be able to submit to have them reclassified, but cannot be considered for transfer.

Submissions may also be made by Transport for NSW. These submissions will be evaluated by the Independent Panel against the published criteria and taking into consideration the views of stakeholders affected by the proposal, as with all other submissions.

### 4. How will the project be impacted by COVID-19?

All parties – including the Independent Panel and the Minister – are acutely aware of the unprecedented circumstances now faced Australia-wide due to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. This will impact the planned consultation activities of the Panel.

With that said, there is determination to continue to drive this important project forward and obtain results for road managers and road users across NSW.

The Independent Panel, supported by an interdepartmental advisory group, is now considering options to adjust the consultation schedule/plan to reflect these new circumstances, while still giving all councils an opportunity to put their views in full. This may include video conferencing and webinars, plus the existing channels of phone and email. Measures will be based on the best advice from our communications specialists.

Information will be distributed directly to councils wherever possible, as well as through bodies such as Office of Local Government and Local Government NSW, and will be made available on the website.



## 5. What assistance is available for bushfire, drought or flood-affected councils?

The Independent Panel and NSW government acknowledge that many council areas have experienced and may currently be experiencing hardship associated with drought or bushfires.

The goal of the project is to improve conditions for councils and road users around the State. For this reason, care will be taken not to unduly increase workloads in affected areas.

Councils who expect to have difficulty meeting submission timelines or drafting submissions are encouraged to contact the Panel Secretariat at their earliest convenience.

## 6. Will existing arrangements under Road Maintenance Council Contracts (RMCCs) be maintained?

The Panel is not currently tasked with reviewing contractual maintenance arrangements on the road network. Its focus will be road classifications, management responsibilities and funding allocations.

The recommendations of the Independent Panel will be based on sound research and consultation. They will aim to promote the values and priorities of the *Future Transport 2056 Strategy*, including a commitment to a strong economy and successful places.

The Panel acknowledges that the RMCCs are important to local councils, to ensure strong economies, local employment and capable local road maintenance crews. The Panel will ensure consideration is given to maintaining local employment in roads maintenance works, such as through RMCC and direct employment by councils, and supporting economic growth in the regions.

## 7. What are the economic and planning principles of the *Future Transport 2056 Strategy*?

The *Future Transport 2056 Strategy* is a 40-year vision for NSW's transport system. The six outcomes underpinning the strategy are:

1. Customer focused
2. Successful places
3. A strong economy
4. Safety and performance
5. Accessible services
6. Sustainability.

*Future Transport 2056 Strategy* can be downloaded [here](#).

The work of the Independent Panel will also align with other government policies and plans, including the Heavy Freight Vehicle Access Policy Framework, the Road Safety Plan and other State and national frameworks either existing or in development.

## 8. What impact will the review and transfer have on State and Federal Government funding sources for councils?

The Independent Panel does not have any authority to make recommendations about Federal Government funding allocations.

Transfer of a council owned regional road to State management may result in a commensurate reduction in Block Grant funding or any other funding attached to that road which correctly sits with the road manager.

Reclassification may also lead to reallocation of funds in cases where a road attracts different funding streams based on its classification, or where the road manager changes through classification, or both.

However, the overall level of funding is outside the Terms of Reference for the Independent Panel and will be a matter for the government.

## 6. Frequently asked questions

### **9. Will roads being reclassified or transferred be brought up to standard before they are reclassified or in a specified timeframe after transfer?**

The implementation process is a matter for government. The Independent Panel will identify individual roads to recommend for reclassification or transfer; make recommendations for a suitable timeline to implement changes; and estimate the financial impact to councils of its recommendations.

The condition of roads returning to State management will be assessed in terms of the standard required for the road to play its role in the network.

Where the cost to the State government of rehabilitation is significant, a prioritisation process will take place to ensure works are carried out where they are most needed as a first order.

Where repairs or increases in the standard of a road by the State government are deemed necessary, it may not be possible to carry out repairs immediately.

It is expected that councils will continue current maintenance standards on all roads for which they are currently the road manager, including roads that are submitted for reclassification or transfer, and until a subject road is formally transferred to the responsibility of another party. This includes the continuation of current funding arrangements, such as the Block Grant. There is no requirement for councils to increase their standard of maintenance on any road prior to or subsequent to its reclassification or transfer.

### **10. What opportunity will councils and other stakeholders have to provide input into the project?**

The Independent Panel values input from all customers and stakeholders, including all types of road users, councils and industry.

As has been outlined above, the mode of consultation for the Independent Panel must now be revised to accommodate changed circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Technology will be utilised as far as possible to facilitate live meetings with the Panel.

Further, the Panel is committed to providing a variety of mechanisms through which feedback can be provided, including via the website, by email, and by phone or video, and will make every effort to accommodate the individual needs of any interested stakeholder. If you would like to discuss any other mode for the submission of feedback, please contact the Secretariat in the first instance.

A consultation schedule is outlined in this paper. Any issues or concerns with this plan or schedule should be raised with the Secretariat.

### **11. Will the full project be completed by the milestone date of July 2021?**

The Independent Panel plans to deliver its final recommendations to the Government by July 2021. The milestone dates are marked indicative and may be subject to change, particularly given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Part of the Panel's task is to determine an appropriate timeline for recommended reclassifications and transfers to take place. It is expected that these processes will be undertaken over a period of time, taking into account both administrative processes and economic impacts.

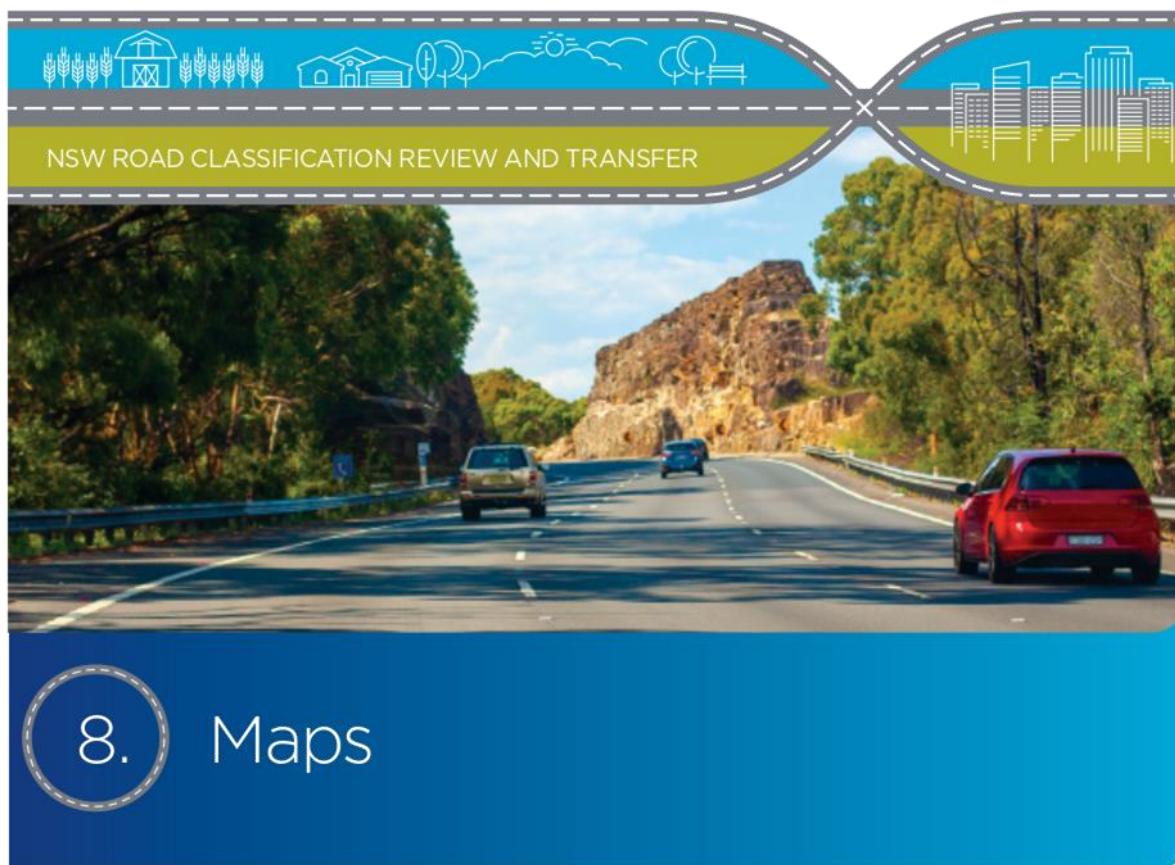


## 7. Consultation schedule

The schedule for consultation sessions with local councils is below. This does not include briefing sessions with other stakeholders.

These dates may be amended or added to as the scheduling process continues.

Session name	Date and time	Session name	Date and time
Hunter JO	2pm-4pm, 23 June 2020 2pm-4pm, 2 July 2020	Central NSW JO	9.30am-11.30am, 24 July 2020 3pm-5pm, 3 August 2020
Far North West, Brewarrina	2.30pm-4.30pm, 29 June 2020	Namoi JO	9.30am-11.30am, 31 July 2020
New England JO	2pm-4pm, 1 July 2020 1.30pm-3.30pm, 3 July 2020	Far South West JO	2.30pm-4.30pm, 27 July 2020
Orana JO, Dubbo, Coonamble	9.30am-11.30am, 3 July 2020 9.30am-11.30am, 9 July 2020	Mid North Coast JO, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Nambucca	10am-12pm, 5 August 2020
Northern Rivers JO	10am-12pm, 7 July 2020	Metro sessions: Inner West, Lower North, Upper North and Central Coast	10am-12pm, 11 August 2020 1.30pm-3.30pm, 14 August 2020
Canberra Region JO	9.30am-11.30am, 10 July 2020 2pm-4pm, 14 July 2020	Metro sessions: Greater Western, Southern and Blue Mountains	10am-12pm, 17 August 2020 1.30pm-3.30pm, 20 August 2020
Illawarra Shoalhaven JO	9.30am-11.30am, 14 July 2020		
Riverina JO, Wagga Wagga	9.30am-11.30am, 15 July 2020 1.30pm-3.30pm, 20 July 2020		
Riverina-Murray JO	9.30am-11.30am, 20 July 2020 2pm-4pm, 24 July 2020		



Maps of the NSW road network showing State, Regional and Local classifications are available at the program webpage: [nswroads.work/roadreview](http://nswroads.work/roadreview)

These maps will be enhanced on a rolling basis to show more data about the State's roads as it becomes available.

### Contact us - For more information

-  [roadreview@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:roadreview@transport.nsw.gov.au)
-  [nswroads.work/roadreview](http://nswroads.work/roadreview)
-  Independent Panel, Road Classification Review and Transfer  
Locked Bag 928 North Sydney NSW 2059



This document contains important information about road projects in your area. If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call the project team on 1800 413 640. The interpreter will then assist you with translation.



June 2020

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