

Recently the RMS has sent out information about the proposed Safety Upgrade of the GWH through Mt Victoria and the Hartley Valley. ([The REF, safety upgrade reports and sketches, a community update, details of staffed displays and how to provide comments can be found on the website at Mount Victoria to Lithgow - Road Projects - Roads and Maritime Services \[http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/western\\\_region/mt\\\_victoria\\\_lithgow/project\\\_documents/safety\\\_upgrade.html\]\(http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/western\_region/mt\_victoria\_lithgow/project\_documents/safety\_upgrade.html\) \) There are information sessions being held on the 17th and 18th October in Bowenfels, Hartley and Mt Victoria about these.](#)

These proposed safety upgrades are just what the Hartley Community has been asking for since 2008! My major concern about them is that they don't have the priority they need. The work within the Valley and in Mt Victoria needs to take precedence over anything else done at Forty Bends which has already been recently improved.

The Safety Upgrade, in all its detail, planned for this area is just what is needed on this stretch of road, though perhaps it would be better for the safety of those accessing any of the businesses that lie along the highway (such as Talisman Galley, Adam's Shed and Hartley Green Power), that the proposed 2 metre sealed shoulder be extended to 3 metres, where possible, as suggested in the RMS Hartley Valley Feasibility Report for outside Adams Shed. (See [http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/western\\_region/mt\\_victoria\\_lithgow/documents/hartley\\_feasibility\\_report/feasibility\\_report\\_hartley\\_valley\\_safety\\_upgrade\\_october\\_2012\\_main\\_report\\_opt\\_cover.pdf](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/western_region/mt_victoria_lithgow/documents/hartley_feasibility_report/feasibility_report_hartley_valley_safety_upgrade_october_2012_main_report_opt_cover.pdf) page 17. section 5.5.3)

The School Bus also stops frequently along the highway, and requests have already been made to Lithgow Council to provide a safe area for the buses to stop to the north of Baaner's Lane, as currently it is often forced to stop in the middle of Baaner's Lane which is anything but ideal. An extended shoulder in this vicinity would make the world of difference to children, parents and bus drivers as well as other road users.

There is no allowance for cyclists in this plan. We do have cyclists - brave, foolhardy souls, who insist on cycling along the highway and

up Victoria Pass, despite the narrow road and extreme danger. Can they also be catered for?

But most importantly, the work through the Valley (between the base of Mt Victoria and the bottom of River Lett Hill) and within the village of Mt Victoria is far more urgently needed by those who live in and traverse through this valley and Mt Victoria than the work proposed on Forty Bends, which, seems to be little more than window dressing when compared with the dangers faced by those in the Valley accessing and leaving the highway.

We are asking the RMS to **"Please give the work within the Hartley Valley the priority it deserves!!! "**

There are even more animal deaths along the valley floor than on the Forty Bends, so the animal passages there can wait a bit longer.