



Proposed Response

1. Burren Junction Heavy Vehicle Rest Area

Burren Progress Inc welcomes the Draft Plan's commitment to improving heavy vehicle rest opportunities and supporting safer, more efficient freight movement throughout regional NSW.

We respectfully request that the proposed Burren Junction Heavy Vehicle Rest Area be recognised as one of these priority projects.

Unlike many proposed locations, heavy vehicles are already stopping within Burren Junction because of:

- GrainCorp receival operations
- Fuel and refreshments
- Accommodation
- Local businesses and services
- Driver fatigue management requirements

The community believes the issue is **not whether heavy vehicles stop in Burren Junction, but whether they can do so safely.**

The preferred location, between the Kamilaroi Highway and the railway line on the southern side of Waterloo Street, would provide a designated off-highway facility for trucks already using the township while significantly improving road safety, reducing roadside parking and supporting the efficient movement of freight.

The project aligns directly with the Draft Plan's objectives of:

- Improving freight efficiency
- Improving road safety
- Increasing heavy vehicle rest opportunities
- Supporting regional industry
- Building a more resilient transport network

2. Minister's Response Supports Further Investigation

Burren Progress Inc recently received a response from the Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Roads and Minister for Regional Transport, regarding the proposed Heavy Vehicle Rest Area.

The Minister acknowledged:

- the importance of Burren Junction within the regional freight network;
- the need to improve heavy vehicle operations, driver safety and fatigue management;

- that investment in heavy vehicle rest areas is critical to maintaining a safe and efficient freight network;
- that the land identified by Burren Progress Inc may be capable of being licensed for use as a heavy vehicle rest area, subject to further assessment.

Importantly, the Minister also advised that **Transport for NSW is not aware of any formal suitability assessment having been undertaken for the proposed Burren Junction site**, and confirmed that Transport for NSW has requested UGL Regional Linx to engage directly with Walgett Shire Council regarding the proposal.

This represents a positive step forward.

Rather than seeking an immediate commitment to construct the facility, Burren Progress Inc believes the next logical step is for Transport for NSW, Walgett Shire Council and UGL Regional Linx to undertake a formal assessment of the proposed site.

3. Regional Emergency Services Airstrip – Burren Junction

The Draft Transport Plan recognises the importance of regional aviation in supporting emergency services, healthcare and community resilience.

Burren Progress Inc believes there is an opportunity to strengthen emergency response capability across north-west New South Wales through the development of the **Burren Junction Regional Emergency Services Airstrip**.

Rather than simply upgrading an airport, this proposal would establish Burren Junction as an additional emergency aviation facility supporting:

- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- CareFlight
- NSW Ambulance
- NSW Police
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- State Emergency Service
- Other emergency and disaster response agencies

Burren Junction occupies a strategic location within Walgett Shire.

Walgett Airport is approximately 100 kilometres away, while Wee Waa has no airport facilities.

An all-weather emergency services airstrip at Burren Junction would improve emergency response capability for residents, surrounding farming communities, travellers using the Kamilaroi Highway and visitors to the internationally recognised Burren Junction Bore Baths.

Such a facility would also strengthen regional resilience during bushfires, floods, medical emergencies and other natural disasters.

This proposal aligns closely with the Draft Plan's objectives of improving regional resilience, supporting emergency services and improving access to essential health services.

4. Burren Junction as a Regional Freight Hub

The Draft Plan identifies the importance of improving freight movement by both road and rail.

Burren Junction already plays a significant role in regional freight through:

- One of the largest GrainCorp receival centres in north-west New South Wales.
- Its strategic location on the Kamilaroi Highway.
- Direct access to the regional rail network.
- Existing freight infrastructure supporting the agricultural industry.

Future planning should continue recognising Burren Junction as an important regional freight hub and preserve opportunities for future road-to-rail freight integration where practical.

5. Continued Investment in the Kamilaroi Highway

The Kamilaroi Highway is one of the region's most important freight corridors.

Burren Progress Inc supports continued investment that improves:

- Heavy vehicle safety
 - Freight efficiency
 - Safe stopping opportunities
 - Road resilience during natural disasters
 - Safety for local communities and visitors
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Recommendations

That Burren Progress Inc support a further submission to Transport for NSW requesting that the final Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan include consideration of:

1. Recognition of Burren Junction as an important regional freight hub.
 2. A formal suitability assessment of the proposed Burren Junction Heavy Vehicle Rest Area in consultation with Transport for NSW, Walgett Shire Council, UGL Regional Linx and Burren Progress Inc.
 3. Recognition of the proposed Burren Junction Heavy Vehicle Rest Area as a future priority project under the Heavy Vehicle Rest Area Improvement Program.
 4. Investigation into the establishment of the **Burren Junction Regional Emergency Services Airstrip** to strengthen emergency response capability across north-west New South Wales.
 5. Continued investment in improving the resilience and safety of the Kamilaroi Highway.
 6. Recognition of Burren Junction's strategic location on both the regional road and rail freight networks.
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Conclusion

Burren Junction may be a small community, but it occupies a strategically important position on both the Kamilaroi Highway and the regional rail network.

As one of north-west New South Wales major grain receipt centres and a gateway to the Walgett Shire, investment in targeted transport infrastructure at Burren Junction will deliver benefits that extend well beyond the village itself.

The proposals outlined in this paper are not intended solely to benefit Burren Junction. Rather, they are designed to strengthen the regional transport network, improve freight efficiency, enhance road safety and increase emergency response capability across north-west New South Wales.

Burren Progress Inc looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with Transport for NSW, Walgett Shire Council, UGL Regional Linx, GrainCorp, neighbouring communities and our local Member of Parliament to develop practical infrastructure solutions that support the long-term objectives of the Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan.

By planning strategically today, we can ensure Burren Junction continues to play an important role in supporting the transport, freight, emergency service and economic needs of the region for decades to come.