

The NSW Grain Freight Review recommended the NSW Government, with the assistance of industry and local government, remedy identified gaps in the grain road network to ensure Higher Mass Limit (HML) operation is possible on all critical grain routes. Of approximately 185,000 kms of total road network in NSW, there is a mere 15,000 km appropriate for HML access. Moreover the lack of interconnectivity between the HML routes in the network compounds the inadequacy of this asset.

Also the Livestock and Bulk Carriers' Association has identified key routes in need of upgrade between the 30 top feedlots, abattoirs and saleyards in the State. The Association acknowledges the work already undertaken by the NSW Government regarding timber bridge upgrades in an effort to improve interconnectivity, however there is much more still to be done.

What the Association is seeking

- Expansion of the HML network into the northern zone, in which 38 of the 108 key routes between livestock selling, feedlotting and processing centres are located.
 - Replacement of bridges and removal of other restrictions that limit the connectivity of the current HML road network (map of HML network attached):
 - Kapooka Bridge west of Wagga Wagga. This bridge alone can be conservatively calculated to cost industry an additional \$4.5 million per year due to the restriction of HML movement of grain from Lockhart, Urana, Oaklands, Rand and Boree Creek to the Junee sub-terminal.
 - Restrictions around high use livestock selling and processing centres including Gunnedah, Inverell.

 - The Association's priority list of bridges requiring funding:
 1. Kapooka Bridge
 2. Aberdeen Bridge, South Bound
 3. The railway bridge on the Gunnedah Link to the Oxley Highway
 4. The railway bridge on the Narrabri Link to the Kamilaroi Highway
 5. The Boree Creek Bridge between Orange and Manildra.

 - Bridges further to those mentioned above that are in dire need of funding:
 1. Railway Bridge at the Crescent, Auburn
 2. Manildra Bridge
 3. Eunonie Bridge, Wagga
 4. Nemingah Railway Culvert
 5. Euston Murray River
 6. Hay Bridge, Wyalong Road
 7. Bridge, Grand Avenue Rosehill and pavement.
-