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**Planning changes pave way for new Pacific Highway service centres**

The Department of Planning and Environment has announced that a trip along the Pacific Highway will be safer and more convenient for motorists and truck drivers with planning changes paving the way for new service centres north of Newcastle.

The new centres are proposed to be located:

- Near the Tweed Valley Way interchange, moving from the northbound Chinderah interchange, which was five kilometres north along the Highway
- At the southern Maclean interchange, moving from the proposed northern Maclean interchange
- At the Arrawarra interchange instead of Woolgoolga
- At the Nambucca Heads interchange
- Off the northbound lanes at the Oxley Highway interchange near Port Macquarie.

A departmental spokesperson said these were the safest and most convenient locations for new service centres along the upgraded Highway.

“With the upgrade of the Pacific Highway between Newcastle and the Queensland border, it is essential that service centres are provided at properly spaced locations along the highway,” the spokesperson said.

“To do that, we’ve amended the relevant local planning direction so highway service centres can be located at the most convenient and safe locations, including near interchanges with other major roads.

“We are also making sure that these service centres are located near the bypassed towns so the economic benefits – including jobs - can remain with those centres.”

Before this decision was taken, there was public consultation with the community, local councils and government agencies.

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