

Putty Road, NSW

RATING	Good riding all the way, but remember that it gets a lot narrower towards the north!
MAP REF	Map 27, G8 – D9
START/END	Windsor, Broke
DISTANCE	157km
INFORMATION	Hawkesbury (02) 4588 5895, Singleton (02) 6578 7213



The Putty is one of the few roads near Sydney where you can really wind a bike out – naturally you are still required to stay within the law.

Back way to the Hunter

Sydney is fortunate in its location. There are hills all the way around the Sydney Basin and, as we all know, hills mean corners; and aboard a bike, corners mean fun. To make things even better, many of the roads that leave the basin run through national parks or state forests, which cuts down wonderfully on the local, and potentially distracting, side traffic.

The Putty Road is no exception. In its roughly 160km from **Windsor**, on the outskirts of Sydney, to **Broke**, in the Hunter Valley, it follows the border between two national parks and tackles its share of hills.

After leaving the flat plain of the Hawkesbury River the road climbs a steep sandstone escarpment before dropping down to the Colo River bridge and then climbing again. From there on it's pretty much up and down all the way until the road joins a small tributary of the Hunter River on its way out into the valley to which that river gave its name.

Fuel and supplies are available at the Colo River bridge caravan park, in **Colo Heights**, and at a service station not far from the Putty turnoff. It's all enjoyable bike road, and the surface is mostly good; but be wary.

Because the road has **Wollemi National Park** on its western side and **Yengo National Park** to the east for most of its length, wildlife does pose a threat. There's another, more immediate, problem which at the same time tends to make it less likely that you'll run over a kangaroo: trucks.

The Putty Road is popular with trucks, and often they see no reason why they should hang about. Quite likely they will be on your tail coming down the hills, across on your side of the road in the tight corners, and wheezing and blocking you when the road begins to climb again. Of course they also tend to sweep the road clear of any wildlife careless enough to cross the bitumen.

There are few side roads, except for back roads leading into the bush at the Colo River and Colo Heights and a short spur that leads to Putty itself. But motorcyclists are not likely to mind that. The big attraction for them is Putty Road itself with its demanding collection of tight, wide, fast and slow corners as well as some fast straights in the middle section. See you out there!

Know your enemy – the Putty Road is popular with big trucks.

