

Community Update | November 2022

# Newell Highway upgrade – heavy duty pavement upgrade (stage 1)



Australian Government



Transport for NSW and Fulton Hogan project teams pictured at the start of work announcement near Moree.

## Construction update

Construction is underway on the 27.3 kilometre heavy duty pavement upgrade of the Newell Highway between Narrabri and Moree.

Fulton Hogan has established site compounds just south of Moree in Section 5 and in Section 3 at Bellata. Current works include vegetation clearing, utility works, installing boundary fencing and safety barriers, stripping topsoil and preparing pavement foundations.

Crews will be working between **7am** and **6pm** on weekdays and alternate weekends on Saturdays and Sundays for the duration of the project.

Due to the ongoing wet weather and the recent flooding event, the construction schedule has been impacted and the road surface has significantly deteriorated.

For the safety of motorists, additional traffic control is in place until the road has been repaired.

Temporary repairs are currently being carried out to maintain motorist safety in the short term until the road is reconstructed as part of the project.

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### Protecting our wildlife

Given the rich variety of bird and wildlife native to the project area, arborists and ecologists will install nesting boxes at strategic locations to supplement hollow trees and logs that may need to be removed as part of the project.

The nest boxes will likely be used by owls, parrots, gliders and microbats. The boxes will be tailored to suit specific species and a detailed assessment was carried out to find the most appropriate trees to house them.



Darren Fielder from Red Leaf Environmental who are consultants on the project.

### Traffic impacts

There are some temporary traffic changes in place to ensure the work zone is safe. This includes local intersection and lane closures, traffic control in place for short stoppages and varying speed limits as low as 40km/h in place at times during work hours, which will affect travel times.

Pedestrian and property access will be maintained at all times during work hours. Please exercise caution as you enter and exit your property and be aware of workers on the roadside.

**Motorists should allow at least 15 minutes extra travel time between Narrabri and Moree for the duration of the project.** Please drive to the conditions and always follow the directions of signs and traffic control.

Variable Messaging Signs (VMS) have also been installed on the north and southbound approaches between Narrabri and Moree providing live updates for estimated journey times between the two towns.

For the latest traffic updates download the Live Traffic NSW App, visit the Live Traffic website or call **132 701**.



Variable Messaging Signs on the Newell Highway showing estimated travel time between Narrabri and Moree.

## Flood Recovery

Transport, Fulton Hogan and contractors worked together to get the Newell Highway repaired and reopened and assist the Moree community with the flood recovery. Work has included assisting community groups with rubbish pick up, providing machinery to support Council's recovery efforts and repairing the deteriorated road surface.

"During these challenging times, it is humbling to see rural communities rallying together to help get the community back on track", said Fulton Hogan Project Manager Brooke Emmett.



Fulton Hogan Project Manager, Brooke Emmett and Site Engineer George Warrener assisting Moree Scouts with flood recovery.

## Bellata community session

There was a strong turn out for the community information session held on the 11 August at Bellata, with local residents and landowners dropping into the Bellata Golf Club to chat with Transport and Fulton Hogan project staff.

Section 3 of the project, which includes a 4.4 kilometre realignment at Bellata, will see improved intersections and pavement upgrades through the centre of town.

Residents were briefed on the planned program of works, hours of operation and traffic management planning, to ensure residents from the town and surrounding farms can move safely through the town, with minimal delays.



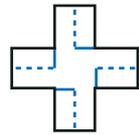
Scott Rickard, Project Manager Transport for NSW outlining project details with local Bellata resident Julie Jones.

## Safety upgrades to property accesses, intersections and bus stops

The project team has received a lot of questions about what is happening with bus stops and private property accesses along the project alignment.

As part of the N2M upgrade, there will be 15 intersections upgraded along the alignment, as well as several public and private accesses upgraded with bus stops provided where it is safe to do so.

These improvements will increase safety for local residents and farmers, bus drivers and service providers who are required to enter and exit side roads and properties. The upgrades will also provide improved visibility of vehicles exiting side roads for motorists already travelling on the highway.



15 Intersection Upgrades



9 Property access upgrades



Temporary pavement construction at Bellata.

## Harvest planning workshop

On 1 September, Transport and Fulton Hogan held a workshop at Bellata to meet with farmers, GrainCorp and business owners to discuss plans to minimise impacts that construction may have on grain truck movements during the harvest season.

Bellata, in particular, is normally congested during harvest season, and the road work associated with the Newell Highway heavy duty pavement upgrades are expected to cause additional delays to motorists.

Transport is working with lead contractor Fulton Hogan to schedule construction activities to minimise delays for producers and freight operators during the harvest season. Measures include installing safety barriers at Bellata prior to harvest starting, maintaining two lane traffic flows and additional traffic control to ensure the safe flow of traffic through our construction sites to GrainCorp's receival site at Bellata.

Even though farmers are feeling the effects of the recent flood event, it is great to see increased truck movements already occurring within the corridor.

Transport and Fulton Hogan will continue to hold regular community sessions and introduce an SMS messaging service to local farmers to advise them in real time of any changes to traffic conditions to ensure harvest season goes smoothly and safely.



Local farmer Drew Penberthy explaining harvest vehicle movements in Bellata.

## Tips for travelling safely this harvest season

### Plan your trip via Live Traffic

Be aware of construction impacts and associated delays by planning ahead and checking Live Traffic and allowing sufficient travel time. Visit [www.livetraffic.com.au](http://www.livetraffic.com.au) to plan your trip

### Oversize OverMass (OSOM) vehicles

If your vehicle is over 3.8 metres wide, notify us ahead of your trip on **1800 741 636 (Option #3)** or email [NewellHighwayWideLoads@fultonhogan.com.au](mailto:NewellHighwayWideLoads@fultonhogan.com.au) ahead of your journey so that arrangements can be planned within the construction area to minimise delays.

Use pull over bays provided and follow direction of signage.

### Stop, revive, survive

Plan your rest stops and take regular breaks. Visit [nswroads.work/restareas](http://nswroads.work/restareas) to be aware of rest areas impacted by construction activities.

### Slow down and be patient

Be aware that there are larger vehicles around and share the road.  
Follow the direction of signage and traffic control.

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### Skills and Industry Sessions

Transport supports the inclusion of as many local suppliers and workers as possible to deliver the Newell Highway heavy duty pavement upgrades to ensure we keep jobs and money in the region.

Skills and Industry Sessions were held at Narrabri and Moree for regional businesses and sole traders who want to be part of the largest pavement upgrade of the Newell Highway. More than 70 people attended the sessions to talk directly to Transport and Fulton Hogan project staff about the suite of job and supplier opportunities available on the \$261 million project.



Mark Ryan, Coates Hire Moree and Connor Sengstock from Fulton Hogan.

Local businesses can still offer goods and services to the project by contacting the project team on **1800 741 636 (option 3)** or by emailing **[newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au)**

### Moree Careers Expo

On Thursday 28 July, Transport and Fulton Hogan attended the Moree Careers Expo engaging with over 200 school students across the North West region.

The event provided a great opportunity for students to talk first-hand to our current trainees and cadets about their own experiences and learn about future opportunities at Transport as part of the Apprentice and Trainee Program.

Fulton Hogan also connected with students and training organisations about School-Based Apprentice and Traineeship (SBAT) opportunities being offered as part of the Newell Highway Heavy Duty Pavement Upgrade project.



Transport for NSW Trainee Lucy Garbutt speaking with students at the Moree Careers Expo.

As the project ramps up, more than 640 direct and indirect jobs will be created, including up to 100 staff on-site every day.

The project will adopt mentor-style training to help welcome new participants into the industry and will enact an Aboriginal Participation Plan to maximise the opportunities for local Indigenous jobseekers to be part of the project.

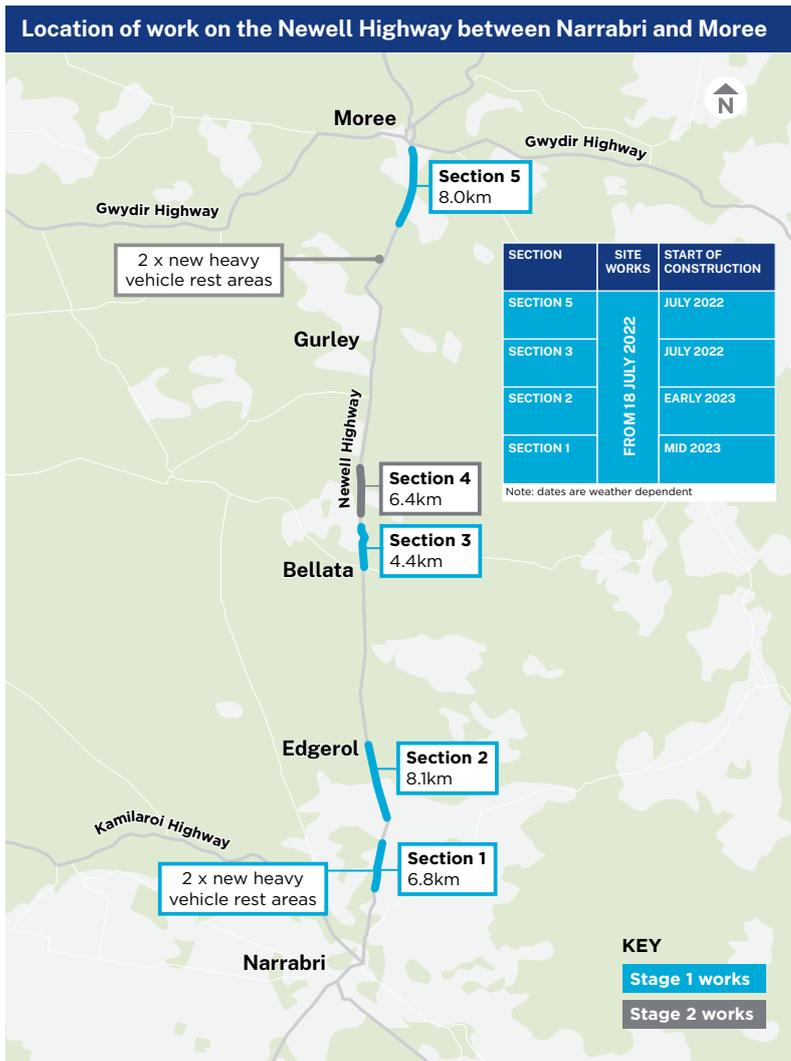
Local Aboriginal senior Uncle Lloyd Munro, who works with many agencies in the Moree area, is eager to again work closely with Transport and Fulton Hogan.

“I really value the relationships that our community has built with Transport and Fulton Hogan in the Moree area. They have ensured the young ones in our Aboriginal communities have excellent opportunities... they get skilled up and then they stay in the region.”



Local Aboriginal senior, Uncle Lloyd Munro at the announcement of the tender award to Fulton Hogan for the main construction contract.

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Stabilised foundation treatment, Section 3 near Bellata.

## Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information on the **Newell Highway heavy duty pavement upgrade** project please contact our project team:

 **1800 741 636 (option #3)**

 **newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au**

 **nswroads.work/n2m**

 **Western Region Office, Level 1, 51-55 Currajong Street, Parkes NSW 2870**



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1800 741 636**.



Transport and Fulton Hogan crews inspecting the flooding in Moree with emergency services.

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