Super-T girders being lifted into place at Flying Fox Creek for the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade
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Michael McCormack
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

The Princes Highway is a critical commuter, freight and tourist route servicing the stunning South Coast region of New South Wales. The Federal Liberal and Nationals Government is making sure the highway receives its fair share of funding to improve safety, reduce travel times and improve access for the communities who use it most. This is an absolute priority.

We’ve delivered the Princes Highway Corridor Strategy – a strategic roadmap setting out future investment priorities for the NSW, Victorian and South Australian sections of the highway.

The centrepiece of our initial investment in NSW is the Milton Ulladulla bypass. The Government recently announced we would bring forward $145 million of our $500 million commitment to the NSW section of the corridor to fast-track project development and construction of the bypass.

Overall, our investment is expected to support around 1,800 direct and indirect jobs, stimulating South Coast industries and tourism across this beautiful region. Following the disastrous bushfires, the local economy needs this boost more than ever before.

It builds on our joint investment of $2.5 billion into various Princes Highway projects since the start of the decade. This includes $155 million for the congestion-busting Nowra Bridge project, where planning is well under way. On behalf of the Australian Government, I look forward to continuing to work closely with the NSW Government to identify and deliver priority upgrades between Wollongong and the Victorian border to reduce travel times and improve safety for all road users.

Whether it’s the Bruce Highway, Pacific Highway or the Princes Highway, through our record $100 billion pipeline of infrastructure projects, the Federal Liberal and Nationals Government is delivering the investment needed to connect regional communities and get Australians home to their families sooner and safer.

Paul Toole
Minister for Regional Roads and Transport

The Princes Highway Upgrade Program is a multi-generational infrastructure investment that will transform the NSW South Coast in the same way that the Pacific Highway upgrade has transformed the North Coast. Delivering on the Government’s long-term vision of an upgraded highway from Sydney to the Victorian border means tackling the big infrastructure challenges, such as the Albion Park Rail bypass, the Nowra Bridge and the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade. We have made significant progress on these projects, and this report details the work that has gone into achieving that. We are also rolling out a package of life-saving safety upgrades in parallel, meaning that more families get to work and back home safe.

Central to this achievement has been our commitment to bringing the community along on the journey; from providing local employment opportunities and holding regular community information and consultation sessions, to engaging with indigenous communities, and protecting our unique local environment. We want to build for the community, with the community.

We are not stopping there. We have a bold vision for the future of the Princes Highway and, together with the Australian Government, we are investing significant funds in the next stages. This includes delivering the Moruya bypass, the Milton Ulladulla bypass, the Jervis Bay Road intersection and the Jervis Bay Road to Sussex Inlet Road duplication, which will boost the regional economy and give local streets back to locals. We are excited about the future of the Princes Highway and are working hard to deliver safer, faster and more reliable journeys on the South Coast of NSW.
The Princes Highway forms the critical link between Sydney and the Illawarra Region, NSW South Coast and beyond into Victoria. It supports communities, business and tourism, providing vital connections between towns and regional centres.

The Princes Highway helps drive the state’s third largest regional economy, is relied upon by over five hundred thousand locals and welcomes almost four million tourists each year.

Since 2011, the Australian and NSW governments have invested $2.5 billion upgrading the Princes Highway to create safer and more efficient journeys along the South Coast of NSW. This investment is transforming the region, improving safety, connecting communities, easing traffic congestion and growing regional economies.

Considerable work along the Princes Highway has already been completed, with more projects underway. The benefits of these upgrades include improved safety, better local access, more reliable journeys, and more efficient and reliable freight movement.

In March 2019, the Australian and NSW governments committed to upgrade the Princes Highway between Nowra and the Victorian border, completing the full upgrade of the Princes Highway. More than $1.5 billion has been committed so far to achieving this. We continue to work with local communities, businesses and stakeholders to determine the priorities and timings of these upgrades.

We are sensitive to the environments and communities we work in, the hardship many have been through and the rebuilding to come.

We will work with you and keep communities and involve them in every phase of planning as we deliver a safer Princes Highway.

### Completed projects
- Victoria Creek upgrade (January 2013)
- Bega bypass (October 2013)
- South Nowra upgrade (March 2014)
- Mount Ousley acceleration lane (northbound) (September 2014)
- Gerringong upgrade (August 2015)
- Termeil Creek upgrade (July 2016)
- Mount Ousley heavy vehicle rest area upgrade (northbound) (June 2017)
- Burrill Lake Bridge replacement (September 2017)
- Foxground and Berry bypass (November 2017)
- Dignams Creek upgrade (April 2019)

### Projects currently underway
- Albion Park Rail bypass
- Berry to Bomaderry upgrade
- Nowra Bridge project
- Batemans Bay Bridge replacement

### Projects in planning
- Improvements between Bulli Tops and Picton Road
- Mount Ousley Interchange
- Jervis Bay Road to Sussex Inlet Road
- Jervis Bay Road intersection upgrade
- Milton Ulladulla bypass
- Upgrades between Burrill Lake and Batemans Bay
- South Batemans Bay Link Road
- Moruya bypass
Major work for the Dignams Creek upgrade was completed in April 2019 and brings this section of highway to current highway safety standards.
Completed
1. Mount Ousley acceleration lane (northbound)
2. Mount Ousley heavy vehicle rest area upgrade (northbound)
3. Gerringong upgrade
4. Foxground and Berry bypass
5. Burrill Lake Bridge replacement
6. Termeil Creek upgrade
7. Victoria Creek upgrade
8. Dignams Creek upgrade
9. Bega bypass

In construction
1. Albion Park Rail bypass
2. Berry to Bomaderry upgrade
3. Nowra Bridge project
4. Batemans Bay Bridge replacement

In development
1. Improvements between Bulli Tops and Picton Road
2. Mount Ousley Interchange
3. Jervis Bay Road intersection upgrade
4. Jervis Bay Road to Sussex Inlet Road
5. Milton Ulladulla bypass
6. Upgrades between Burrill Lake and Batemans Bay
7. South Batemans Bay Link Road
8. Moruya bypass

In strategic planning
Princes Highway upgrade between Jervis Bay Road and the Victorian border
What has been done?

**Gerringong upgrade**
The upgrade between Mount Pleasant and Toolijooa Road, Gerringong was opened to traffic in August 2015. It provides 7.5 kilometres of upgraded highway and includes two new interchanges with access to Gerringong and Gerroa.

Cost: $345 million
Opened to traffic: August 2015

**Foxground and Berry bypass**
The completed project provides a four-lane highway (two lanes in each direction) with median separation for 12.5 kilometres of the Princes Highway between Toolijooa Road and just south of Andersons Lane. The upgrade included a bypass of the existing winding highway at Foxground and a bypass of Berry with access ramps at the north and south of the town.

Cost: $580 million
Completed: November 2017

**Burrill Lake Bridge replacement**
The bridge replacement project provides a 290 metre long bridge spanning the lake on a new alignment to the east of the old bridge. Roundabouts were built on either side of the crossing to connect the Princes Highway to local roads. A pedestrian and cycle path was built on the new bridge, connecting to new paths on both sides and linking to the Ulladulla cycle path.

Cost: $58 million
Completed: March 2018

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**Did you know?**
The design of Omega Bridge was changed to make it look more visually appealing.

**Did you know?**
More than 5,000 people walked the Berry bypass at a community celebration.

**Did you know?**
The old bridge was one of the lowest points along the Princes Highway on the South Coast.
Did you know? Did you know? Did you know?

A temporary bridge was installed during construction to keep traffic moving along the Princes Highway.

Excess fill was donated to three local projects including a children’s playground.

Vehicle carbon emissions are reduced by minimising grades and curves in roads.

Termeil Creek upgrade

The upgrade provides a new, straighter 1.6 kilometre stretch of the Princes Highway and has improved safety for the more than 7,000 daily road users. The project also features a new Termeil Creek Bridge that is 5.3 metres wider and 26 metres longer than the previous bridge and is capable of withstanding a one in 100 year flood event.

Cost: $21 million

Opened to traffic: July 2016

Dignams Creek upgrade

Located south of Narooma, major work on the Princes Highway at Dignams Creek was completed ahead of schedule in April 2019. The upgrade provides an intersection at Dignams Creek Road, 800 metres of widened highway, two kilometres of new road, two new bridges, a new wildlife crossing and revegetation.

Cost: $45 million

Opened to traffic: December 2018

Bega bypass

The 3.5 kilometre, two lane bypass was completed in October 2013. The bypass takes heavy vehicles out of the town and improves safety for locals.

Two new bridges were built with pedestrian access over the new highway as well as an underpass for local traffic with pedestrian access.

Cost: $70 million

Opened to traffic: October 2013

Did you know? Did you know? Did you know?
What is happening now?

Albion Park Rail bypass

Once complete, the project will deliver a 9.8 kilometre extension of the Princes Motorway, provide 13 new bridges, access to the existing Princes Motorway at Dapto and Oak Flats and two new interchanges at the Illawarra Highway and at Tongarra Road. Pedestrian and cyclist facilities will also be improved and local roads upgraded.

Status: In construction

Recent and upcoming work includes:

- The new Yallah Road permanently opened to traffic in December 2019
- Work on all 13 bridges has begun
- Completing bridge foundations
- Delivering and installing Super-T girders
- Completing utility service relocations (over 90 per cent are now complete)
- Part of the new East West Link is open to traffic and further sections will open to traffic later in 2020
- Traffic lights have been installed at the intersection of Woollybutt Drive, Nehme Avenue and the Princes Highway, Albion Park Rail
- Continuing bulk earthwork and excavation (more than 80 per cent of earthworks are now complete)
- More than 1 million man hours worked on the project.

Cost: $630 million

Did you know?

- ‘Piling’ is installing concrete columns that form a solid foundation for a bridge
- A Super-T girder is a precast concrete beam used to build safe and cost effective bridges

Reduce fatalities and serious injury  trucks off local roads  Save up to 30% travel time  Up to 6 traffic lights bypassed  reduce flooding impacts
Berry to Bomaderry upgrade

Once complete, the project will deliver 10.6 kilometres of four-lane highway between Mullers Lane, Berry and Cambewarra Road, Bomaderry. Local access will be improved and a number of local roads will be upgraded. A new heavy vehicle inspection bay will be created and eight new bridges will be built. Drainage and flood mitigation measures will also be installed.

**Status:** In construction

**Recent and upcoming work includes:**

- Traffic recently switched onto three newly built sections of the Princes Highway
- Starting work on 10 of the 12 bridges with three bridges already complete
- Australian weathering steel bridge girders installed to form an overpass of the highway between Pestells Lane and Meroo Road
- Building the new drainage network with over 3.5 kilometres built so far
- Traffic switched onto the new northbound carriageway between the Cambewarra Road roundabout at Bomaderry and Abernethys Lane, Meroo Meadow
- Moving traffic onto two new bridges over Flying Fox Creek and Jaspers Brush Creek
- Working on a retaining wall near Strongs Road.

**Cost:** $450 million

**Did you know?**

Road pavements are made up of multiple layers of material which are usually arranged with the highest load bearing capacity on the top and the lowest on the bottom.
Did you know?
All major road projects carry out and develop a series of design assessments before requesting regulatory approvals. This includes:

- A concept design – provides details of proposed work to allow for environmental assessments to be made
- An environmental impact assessment – identifies the likely impacts of proposed work and outlines mitigation measures.

Nowra Bridge project
The project will deliver a new four-lane bridge over the Shoalhaven River as well as additional lanes and upgraded intersections on the Princes Highway.

**Status:** Construction to start in 2020

**Project update:** Change project update to:
Fulton Hogan Construction has been awarded the design and construction contract and will start work in February.

The project team is using the recommendations from the submissions report and community feedback to shape the final design for the project, this includes preserving the existing bridge for pedestrian and cycle paths.

**Cost:** $310 million
Batemans Bay Bridge replacement

Once complete, the new bridge will provide four lanes for vehicles and a three-metre-wide shared pedestrian and cyclist path. It will also include an upgraded intersection with the Kings Highway. The replacement bridge will enable uninterrupted access under the bridge for river vessels up to 12 metres. There will also be new fishing and viewing platforms installed on the foreshore.

**Status:** In construction

**Recent and upcoming work includes:**

Work onsite started in February 2019 and is ongoing, with 150 people currently working on the project.

- Completing marine and land-based piling
- Starting to transport sections of the bridge to the project area
- Continuing work on the land-based bridge spans
- Completing earthwork and ground stabilisation at the southern approach
- Continuing upgrades of the intersection at Princes and Kings highways
- Starting work on the southern retaining walls for the new bridge.

**Cost:** $274 million
Marine piling barges for the Batemans Bay Bridge replacement sitting side by side near the northern foreshore in August 2019.
For projects currently underway

- 31 kilometres of new road
- 27 new bridges
- 5 new or upgraded interchanges
- 24 intersection upgrades
- 12 kilometres of new shared paths

Workers have spent about 2 million hours building major projects
What is coming next?

- **Jervis Bay Road intersection upgrade**
  Planning for an upgrade of the Jervis Bay Road intersection to improve safety

- **Milton Ulladulla bypass**
  Planning for a bypass of Milton and Ulladulla to improve safety and travel times

- **Jervis Bay Road to Sussex Inlet Road**
  Planning for major safety upgrades including duplication of sections of the Princes Highway between Jervis Bay Road and Sussex Inlet Road

- **Upgrades between Burrill Lake and Batemans Bay**
  Planning for safety upgrades of sections of the Princes Highway between Burrill Lake and Batemans Bay

- **South Batemans Bay Link Road**
  Planning for a safe and efficient connection between South Batemans Bay Link Road and the Princes Highway

- **Princes Highway upgrade between Jervis Bay Road and the Victorian border**
  We’re developing a business case for the Princes Highway upgrade between Jervis Bay Road and the Victorian border. This will determine the strategic priorities and is expected to be complete by late 2020. The community will have an opportunity to have their say as plans progress.
NSW Saving Lives on Country Roads program

Overview

Once complete, the Princes Highway upgrade will significantly improve safety for road users. Major upgrades typically have long lead times so we are focused on delivering road safety improvements in the short term while major upgrades are in development to immediately reduce the risk and severity of crashes. These safety improvements will be delivered between Nowra and the Victorian border as part of the Saving Lives on Country Roads program.

What is planned?

- Provide median separation
- Install safety barriers in medians, where possible
- Widen shoulders to at least two metres, or as far as practical
- Install rumble strips on edge and centre lines
- Install right turn bays to reduce the risk of rear-end crashes while also improving separation between oncoming traffic
- Install roadside safety barriers on curves and in front of hazardous obstacles
- Install electronic vehicle activated signs which activate when drivers approach sections of road and curves at unsafe speeds.

Cost: $11.14 million

The NSW government is investing $640 million in the Saving Lives on Country Roads program to improve more than 6,000 kilometres of NSW roads.

The Princes Highway upgrade program forms part of this road safety initiative.
Benefits

Local residents, businesses and visitors that use the Princes Highway are already benefiting from the completion of major projects. Transport for NSW will continue to invest in projects along the highway to ensure the liveability of local communities and that their road journeys continue to improve.

Safety

The NSW Government’s goal is to reduce deaths and serious injuries on our roads to zero. The Princes Highway upgrade program is significantly improving safety for all road users through a combination of major and minor safety upgrades. Minor safety upgrades feature access changes, installing roadside barriers, widening shoulders, reducing heavy vehicles on local roads, providing separation between oncoming traffic and other safety initiatives.

Crash data over the past 20 years shows that where we are able to invest in major upgrades, like the ones between Yallah and Bomaderry since 2001, we are seeing a downward trend in the number of fatal and serious injury crashes.

Ensuring safer journeys for all road users extends beyond major projects. In conjunction with individual projects, safety packages are continually investigated and delivered along the length of the highway. The combination of large and small upgrades over the past 20 years is seeing a downward trend in the number of fatalities on the Princes Highway.

Investments through the Saving Lives on Country Roads program and major upgrades will help realise our goal of reducing death and injury on NSW roads.
Safety upgrades

Upgrading the Princes Highway to ensure safe journeys for all road users extends beyond major projects. In conjunction with individual projects, safety packages are continually investigated and delivered as part of our ongoing maintenance of the highway.

**Cockwhy**
- **Cost:** $450,000
- **Status:** Complete
- **Work included:** 300 metres of roadside barriers, shoulder widening and 1.8 kilometres of rumble strips.

**Wandandian**
- **Cost:** $2.5 million
- **Status:** Complete
- **Work included:** installing median and roadside barriers and shoulder widening.

**Boardinghouse Road**
- **Cost:** $5 million
- **Status:** Underway
- **Work includes:** installing median and roadside barriers and shoulder widening.

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**BENEFITS**
- Minimise rear-end crashes by catering to traffic volumes
- Install median separation to reduce head-on crashes
- Improve safety of high-risk curves
Building resilience to bushfire and other emergencies

Preparing ourselves for emergencies
Transport for NSW engage emergency services during the development of major road upgrades, including RFS, Fire and Rescue, NSW Police, NSW Ambulance and SES.

Working closely with these agencies enables us to consider the needs of our emergency services and prepares the future road network for when they’re needed most.

Our response to the bushfire crisis
Transport for NSW crews worked hard to re-open the bushfire affected Princes Highway over the peak summer period to restore vital connections for impacted communities.

The bushfires caused substantial impact and loss to local communities, including damage to road infrastructure, line marking, safety signage, directional signage, reflector lights and guardrails.

Re-opening the Princes Highway was critical to supporting recovery efforts and movement of supplies into the region and we worked closely with key government agencies and freight industries to keep supplies moving.

Our focus now is on repairing damaged road infrastructure to maintain the highest standard of safety. Our operations and recovery teams have been highly involved in the emergency response during and following the recent bushfires. We will assess all lessons learnt and consider these as we develop in future upgrades of the Princes Highway.

We are sensitive to the environments and communities we work in, what many have recently been through and the rebuilding to come. We will work with communities and keep them involved with our planning every step of the way as we deliver a safer Princes Highway.
Transport staff working at the Emergency Operations Centre

Road signs, guardrails and other road infrastructure has been repaired following recent bushfires.

Road workers were often first responders for injured or vulnerable wildlife.
Growing regional economies

Transport for NSW is continually working to support the growth of regional economies along the NSW South Coast. Upgrading the Princes Highway supports regional growth by providing better access to towns and centres. Through improved access, the tourism industry can flourish, freight can offer better services to regional communities and local businesses are better supported.

When planning projects, we aim to deliver safe and reliable road journeys while also enhancing the liveability of an area. Regional centres are the places where the majority of jobs and services are located as well as shops, restaurants and parks. Roads through and around these centres serve an important purpose, allowing people to travel to and from the centre and easily move within it. Improved access to regional centres also allows people and local economies to develop and thrive.

Did you know?

In 2018, more than 3.8 million domestic tourists visited the NSW South Coast. That’s more than the Gold Coast, Hunter Valley, Sunshine Coast and Tropical North Queensland received.*

* Federal government’s National Visitor Survey (NVS)

Berry bypass

- Opened to traffic in July 2017
- Local town returned to local community
- Heavy vehicles removed from the main street
- Improved pedestrian safety in town centre
- Tourism in the town continues to thrive

Community walk to celebrate the opening of the Berry Bypass in June 2017

Benefits

- More efficient road journeys for local residents
- Cater to residents, visitors and freight vehicles who share the road
- Improve travel times during holiday period
Visit princeshighway.nsw.gov.au to find out how we’re planning for stronger regional economies.
Heavy vehicle operation is vital to the NSW economy through its role in delivering freight and carrying passengers efficiently within the state and across borders. The Princes Highway is an important freight link, connecting key east-west transport corridors like the Kings and Snowy Mountains highways.

The road network has been designed over time to meet the needs of semi-trailer and B-Double trucks. As a result, parts of the network cannot meet the demands of larger freight vehicles such as Higher Productivity Vehicles (HPV) or vehicles running at Higher Mass Limits.

In collaboration with the freight industry, Transport for NSW has developed a new policy framework that outlines a strategic approach to heavy vehicle access in NSW. The aim of the new framework is to achieve safer and more efficient movement of road freight in NSW now and into the future.

The Princes Highway upgrade program is aligned to this plan, catering to projected freight volumes, enhance productivity and reduce fatalities and serious injuries from crashes involving heavy vehicles.

**The key objective of The Heavy Vehicle Access Policy Framework is to improve the efficiency of existing infrastructure and ensure greater connectivity and access along key freight routes.**

As freight is moved more efficiently, the Princes Highway upgrade will ensure fewer heavy vehicles on local roads and in regional towns.

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**Did you know?**

Higher Productivity Vehicles are freight vehicles that can carry greater loads with better environmental performance. Their innovative design enables safer, more efficient movement of freight.

The Nowra Bridge project will improve freight efficiency by removing the overheight vehicle restrictions currently in place for southbound vehicles crossing the Shoalhaven River at Nowra.

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**BENEFITS**

- Efficient freight journeys
- Ensure the Princes Highway can support Higher Productivity Vehicles
People and place

When planning transport projects we aim to deliver safe, efficient and reliable journeys while enhancing the liveability and amenity of an area. The success of regional cities and towns depends on our road network supporting attractive and healthy places.

Regional centres are where the majority of jobs and services are located as well as shops, restaurants and parks. Roads through and around these centres serve an important purpose, allowing people to travel to and from the centre and easily move within it.

When planning our road network we assess the liveability of an area by creating desirable street environments and considering land use adjacent to roads. Planning to improve liveability can ensure vibrant eating and shopping districts that are adjacent to roads are not impacted by peak congestion periods.

Creating attractive places also encourages local community members to increase social interactions and enjoy leisure time outdoors. Enabling easy access to these spaces for walking and cycling encourages community members to be more physically active. We believe supporting active and social communities helps local economies thrive.

**BENEFITS**
- More efficient local trips
- Taking trucks off local roads
- Improve access to towns for local residents
- Create attractive places where locals can enjoy leisure time
- Improve local infrastructure to drive regional tourism

**Did you know?**
The upgrade will future-proof the highway for new transport technologies like electric vehicles and autonomous vehicles.

Artists impression of the pedestrian access at the new Batemans Bay Bridge
Improve public access to the Burrill Lake foreshore

Construction of the $58 million Burrill Lake Bridge replacement was completed in March 2018.

Since opening the new bridge to traffic in late 2017, we have removed the old bridge and causeway and completed roundabouts, local road access, parking spaces, pedestrian and cyclist paths, landscaping and the southern foreshore community platform.

The site office was removed in April 2018, and Lion Park has been turfed, landscaped and returned to the community. The southern foreshore platform is now used by community members, providing a safe place with seating and tables, a facility for fishing and for the community and visitors to enjoy the view across the lake.

The timber platform (made from Australian wood) is surrounded by a sandstone rock-wall. This sandstone is also used at various spots under sections of the bridge and provides protection from water flowing onto the foreshore.

The timber supports at the edge of the platform were built from reclaimed timber from the 1950s bridge.

As part of the project, pedestrian access under the bridge means people do not need to cross the Princes Highway. Improved 2.5-metre-wide footpaths were also installed on the bridge. The path provides shared access across the bridge, and cycle paths were also installed.

New public toilets were also built as part of this project. Transport for NSW provided funding to Shoalhaven City Council which built the new complex which contains change facilities and caters for people with disabilities.
Working with local contractors

Transport for NSW believe an important part of planning major projects is working with local contractors and prioritising Australian over International businesses. This is a key part of the planning process, particularly when delivering major projects in regional areas and along the NSW South Coast.

We proactively support local business throughout the various stages of our projects. This includes, employing local tradespersons, sourcing local materials, staying at local accommodation and visiting local cafes and restaurants.

Since we started improving safety along the Princes Highway we have contributed to local economies, sourced materials from local suppliers and created employment opportunities for surrounding communities. This includes the Infrastructure Skills Legacy program, employing under-represented individuals in the region.

Services carried out by local contractors on projects such as Burrill Lake Bridge project and Batemans Bay Bridge replacement include:

- Traffic control
- Concrete supply
- Asphalt and spray sealing
- Concreting, welding, plumbing and electrician services
- Metal fabrication
- Drainage supplies and installation
- Earthwork operators
- Underboring services
- Small crane and equipment hire
- Demolition and asbestos management services
- Quarry products
- Local timber supply
- Hospitality including accommodation and catering
- Office administration resources and printers.

Did you know?

Metal fabrication is the creation of metal structures by cutting, bending and assembling processes.
A purpose built concrete pre-cast facility has been built in Mogo to keep employment and training opportunities within the local area. The facility will produce the 168 segments needed for the new Batemans Bay Bridge.

Visit princeshighway.nsw.gov.au to find out how we’re supporting, training and employing locals.
Training and employment

The Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program

The NSW Government established the Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program (ISLP) to provide employment opportunities within the construction industry for under-represented groups. These groups include young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The ISLP creates opportunities for individuals to explore a variety of construction trade careers, including on our projects in the area. A Training Hub is built on a project worksite and a specially designed program is developed.

Training is ongoing throughout a project to continually upskill participants. This ensures the workforce meet the needs of the project and a long-term employment legacy is delivered for the local community.

We are proactively rolling out ISLP across a number of projects that form the Princes Highway upgrade, including the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade, Nowra Bridge project, Albion Park Rail bypass and Batemans Bay Bridge replacement.
What do graduates do onsite?

Graduates roles onsite are diverse. Typically they operate small plant and equipment, use hand and power tools, identify, locate and protect underground services and perform manual excavations.

Albion Park Rail bypass

Following a successful pre-employment course in mid-2019, the project hosted a second group of job seekers in December 2019 as part of ISLP. The courses focused on engaging and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, women in construction and people from the refugee community.

24 per cent are engaged as learning workers

18 trainees onsite (more joining soon)

About 76 per cent of workers are from the local community not including ISLP graduates

Batemans Bay Bridge

Most of the ISLP graduates are now working full-time on the project and are completing a Certificate II Traineeship in Civil Construction. Since it was established, the project has continued to exceed state-wide targets in employment of under-represented groups.

25 per cent of workforce are in training

11 per cent of workforce are Aboriginal

7 per cent of workforce were previously long term unemployed

Berry to Bomaderry bypass

Since the project started, two groups of participants have completed a pre-employment Civil Construction Skill Set and 17 graduates have transitioned into Certificate II Civil Construction.

43 per cent of workforce are local

9 per cent of workforce are Aboriginal

15 per cent of workforce are under 25

ISLP trainees Stephen Cullen, Jay Cotterell, Koby Chapman, Nick Mathers (Trainer), Michael Perry, Sam Nye, Malachy Leslie
Worker safety

Safety on worksites

Protecting our people is a core value and our project teams are working to find new ways to improve safety on our work sites. This includes following best practice and innovating and trialling new technology.

Protecting underground equipment at Albion Park Rail bypass worksite

Throughout the project site life-sized cut-outs of construction workers have been installed. These cut-outs are protecting sensitive underground equipment by making sure workers don’t run over it. By giving hazards an identity, the project team are helping to make safety more personal; drivers and machine operators are less likely to take risks when they see a real person in their mirror or in front of them. The initiative has resulted in less damage to equipment, fewer onsite safety incidents and reduced the need for construction crews to redo work.
Did you know?

The cut-outs were made using photos of real people from the project team.
Working with our communities

Transport for NSW proactively engages with the community when planning and delivering projects. Effective community engagement ensures that as plans progress the needs of local communities are considered. In addition to improving safety, upgrading the Princes Highway also involves connecting communities and creating more liveable spaces. This will be achieved through improving local facilities, taking trucks off local roads and other community initiatives.

We have been listening

Transport for NSW encourages the community to provide input and feedback on projects to help further develop plans. Changes have already been made as a result of feedback received.

Nowra Bridge

Over three months in 2014, the Nowra Bridge project team held community information sessions within the local area to discuss possible outcomes for the Nowra Bridge. Options discussed included retaining it, relocating it (as a whole or in parts) or removing it.

Of the 720 submissions received, 540 indicated the old Nowra Bridge should be retained. This feedback assisted in the decision to repurpose the bridge to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists.

Visit princeshighway.nsw.gov.au to find out how we’re engaging our communities

Did you know?

We send regular email updates to people interested in our projects. Email princeshighway@transport.nsw.gov.au to be added to our subscription list.
Albion Park Rail bypass community information session

In June 2019, the first community information session was held which enabled the public to meet the project team and have their questions answered in person.

As a result of feedback from this session, the project team are now developing project fact sheets to keep the community informed on key concerns such as flooding, environment and dust management.

Public community information sessions are held regularly on the project, with members of the community also encouraged to visit the project Community Display Centre on weekdays between 9am and 5pm at 1914 Illawarra Highway Albion Park Rail.

Batemans Bay foreshore design

In November 2017, the project team consulted with the community and key stakeholders about the design of the Batemans Bay foreshore following the removal of the existing bridge. The feedback received indicated the new design of the foreshore needed to acknowledge the region’s heritage and cultural values. To achieve this, a Foreshore Advisory Committee was established to ensure the design considered community advice and recommendations.

As a result of the Committee’s contributions several design changes have been made. A sculpture will be installed on the southern foreshore to recognise the local significance of the existing bridge. The northern abutment was redesigned to include a new six metre wall to enable more community space and additional parking closer to the river and foreshore. The wall will also feature a mural to celebrate the region’s heritage and culture.

We will continue to work with Eurobodalla Shire Council, State government agencies and the community on the final design of the foreshore.

Did you know?

An ‘abutment’ is a structure built at either end of a bridge to support the pressure placed on it.

Albion Park Rail bypass community information session

Artists impression of the new Batemans Bay bridge foreshore
Engaging with local groups

Croom Regional Sporting Complex

On 10 August 2019, the Albion Park Rail bypass project team held a community barbeque to celebrate the new sporting field and thank the local community for their patience while work was carried out. This sporting field was built as part of a redesign of Croom Regional Sporting Complex to make way for the bypass.

More than 500 bricks were salvaged from the former cricket and Australian Football League clubhouse. The clubs plan to use the bricks, many of which have been signed by past players, as part of a memorial that will be built at the new clubhouse.
The Flagstaff Group
The Flagstaff Group was formed in 1966 to provide employment, life skills and training for people with disability across the Illawarra and Shoalhaven.
Transport for NSW have partnered with Flagstaff Shoalhaven on the Albion Park Rail bypass and Berry to Bomaderry upgrade projects to upskill workers and provide employment opportunities for local people with disabilities.

What can participants do?
Diverse roles include lawn maintenance, woodwork, light engineering, laundry, packaging and assembly and recycling.

On the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade, participants fill sandbags which are essential during work related to the project. Sandbags are used as weights for traffic signage, erosion and sediment control as well as temporary retaining walls.

On the Albion Park Rail bypass project, seven participants took part in a tour of the project site as part of their Construction Awareness Program. The program is targeted towards people with disability who are interested in entering the construction industry.

A six-week work experience program has also been implemented, where participants assist with administrative duties, community relations and environment work. They are also given the opportunity to complete their General Construction White Card training as part of the placement.
Meet Aaron, one of the participants

Q. What are you hoping to get out of work experience?
A. I want to gain experience to hopefully get a job. I’d also like to build my administrative skills.

Q. What have you enjoyed most about work experience so far?
A. Everything! I really like it. I like learning about health and safety and what Fulton Hogan (contractor) does. It’s interesting to see what other people do, that it’s more than just construction workers. I also like learning what it takes to make the construction workers safe.

Q. What are you interested in for work or study post work experience?
A. I would like to do a course in traffic control. I’m also getting my forklift licence soon. Then I want to get more construction tickets so I have more skills to offer a workplace.

Did you know?
Completion of the General Construction Induction training (commonly knowns as a White Card) is mandatory for anyone who works in construction or visits a construction site.
Involving Aboriginal communities

NAIDOC week, 2019

Albion Park Rail bypass - Knowledge sharing with Illawarra Koori Men’s Group

On 24 July 2019 the project team welcomed local Aboriginal Elders from the Illawarra Koori Men’s Group to an event. The event was a question and answer style panel enabling the Elders to share stories and knowledge related to 2019’s NAIDOC theme: Voice, Treaty, Truth. The project team then participated in a traditional smoking ceremony and invited the Elders to join in an interactive art workshop to show support for reconciliation, culture and respect for the local community.

Batemans Bay Bridge

To celebrate NAIDOC week, the project team commissioned an artwork for the site office that was created by local Aboriginal artist Bronwen Smith. The artwork depicts the Yuin people that have lived along the shores of the Bindoo (Clyde River) for thousands of years. The artwork portrays the Bindoo, mara (fish), bimbalaras (oysters and shellfish) and Bilima (turtles). The artwork wishes everyone Walawaani (a safe journey home).

The Bindoo was an important river crossing for the Yuin people. To acknowledge the cultural significance of this area, an Aboriginal mural and educational installation are planned on the northern foreshore. The project team recently asked the community for feedback on these plans and around 200 responses were received. We will provide more detail once responses have been considered. The areas will be developed further in consultation with the community.

Did you know?

The Yuin people are a group of Australian Aboriginal people from the South Coast of New South Wales.

Visit princeshighway.nsw.gov.au to find out how we’re engaging Aboriginal communities
**Did you know?**
NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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### Jerrawangala rest area

In July 2019, murals were painted on water tank structures at the Princes Highway rest area, Jerrawangala. Local indigenous artist Warwick Keen has been practicing Art for more than 40 years and developed murals that used a predominantly Indigenous colour scheme and Aboriginal place names. The murals promote Aboriginal culture at a rest stop utilised by road users travelling the South Coast.

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### Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program (ISLP) Training Hub

Warwick was also commissioned to develop an artwork that would wrap around the ISLP Training Hub at the Albion Park Rail bypass worksite. Warwick created an artwork that depicted traditional Aboriginal names for the surrounding Illawarra and South Coast regions, demonstrating a strong connection to country and place. These artworks serve as a reminder for the project team and broader community to acknowledge the traditional and ongoing custodians of the land.
Smoking ceremonies before breaking ground

Transport for NSW facilitates smoking ceremonies before the start of major construction to acknowledge the cultural importance of the local area. They have been performed at several projects that form the Princes Highway upgrade to demonstrate deep cultural respect and awareness within the project team.

Since the start of 2019, the Albion Park Rail bypass and Batemans Bay project teams have held numerous traditional smoking ceremonies, including:

- Before breaking ground
- During National Reconciliation Week in May
- To celebrate the first group of ISLP graduates in July
- NAIDOC week celebrations

Did you know?

A smoking ceremony is an ancient Aboriginal custom that involves burning native plants to produce smoke, believed to have cleansing properties.
Environment and Culture

Transport for NSW continually works to minimise environmental impacts, from project planning through to delivery. Protecting and preserving heritage, biodiversity and acting in an environmentally responsible way are fundamental parts of project planning.

We also recognise the development and delivery of projects has potential impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage. To manage these impacts, plans are developed in collaboration with Indigenous groups and organisations.

Biodiversity

Albion Park Rail bypass protection of animals
In February 2019, a number of dams needed to be drained as part of the project development. The team worked closely with ecologists to identify animals in the area that needed to be relocated and protected. A variety of animals were carefully relocated, including turtles, eels, frogs and mussels. New water quality basins were also built to replace the dams that were removed. This involved planting native and aquatic vegetation which encourages re-introduction of animals into the area.

Batemans Bay Marine Park Conservation
The Clyde River that Batemans Bay Bridge crosses is a very special and sensitive marine environment. To protect this environment, we continually work to minimise impacts when working in or next to the waterway. A series of environmental controls have been put in place. One example is the installation of “silt curtains” to prevent any sediment from the site moving into the water.

Implementing environmental controls also extends to equipment that is used on the worksite. Two large barges recently entered the river to assist with the bridge piling. Each of these barges have their own environmental controls which include sealing the edges to ensure that no spills enter the river.

The Clyde River is full of marine life. Since construction started, dolphins and seals have been spotted passing the project site. One seal is a regular visitor to the project site.

When a marine animal is seen in the vicinity of the worksite work stops immediately, and the team wait 30 minutes before restarting work. After this time if the animal is still in the area a ‘soft start’ approach is taken which involves making soft tapping or vibrations to warn the animals and enable them to move away.

Visit princeshighway.nsw.gov.au to find out how we’re protecting and preserving the environment
Indigenous artefacts

An archaeological study was carried out at the Albion Park Rail bypass project site, starting at Frazers Creek. Archaeologists salvaged a range of Indigenous artefacts, which is evidence that the area was used by hunter gatherers in the past. The discovery of stone artefacts indicates small groups travelled through the valley between the escarpment and Lake Illawarra.

The artefacts salvaged during this study are currently undergoing analysis and suitable long-term management will be planned in consultation with Representative Aboriginal Stakeholders.

Did you know?

Raw materials Aboriginal people used to manufacture stone tools were readily available in this region.
Transport for NSW encourages the community to provide input and feedback on the project to help further develop plans.

To speak with the project team

princeshighway@transport.nsw.gov.au