



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Transport for NSW

Princes Highway upgrade program

Progress update | March to September 2020



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Forewords



The Hon. Michael McCormack, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

The Princes Highway is a crucial link between the beautiful South Coast NSW and the rest of NSW and Victoria. The Federal Liberal and Nationals Government is committed to upgrading the highway and unlocking economic, employment and social opportunities between Jervis Bay Road and the Victorian border.

The Princes Highway upgrade program is a forward-looking endeavour which will meet the needs of the communities the highway serves and help drive the nation's economy forward.

Major work recently started on the Nowra Bridge project and I look forward to watching this project closely as it enables greater ease of movement for the people of Nowra.

Sustainable employment opportunities are a core benefit of the highway upgrade, and our investment is expected to deliver 1000 direct and 3000 indirect jobs for the region. This has never been more important than in the aftermath of the 2019/20 bushfire season and the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Federal Liberal and Nationals Government continues to work side by side with NSW Government in identifying key projects to help deliver safer, more reliable, more efficient, better connected journeys and also shape the identity of South Coast NSW for generations to come.



The Hon. Paul Toole, Minister for Regional Roads and Transport

The Princes Highway upgrade program is transforming South Coast NSW. In response to the hardship so many of our communities have experienced so far in 2020, our focus is on delivering a more resilient network: one that is adaptable to hazards and emergencies, economic shocks, and can support new technologies and emerging local industry.

Getting you and your family home safely is at the heart of the program. Four major projects including Albion Park Rail bypass, Berry to Bomaderry upgrade, Nowra Bridge project and Batemans Bay Bridge replacement are in construction and will all deliver safer journeys for road users. Numerous other works are being delivered as part of the Saving Lives on Country Roads program which aims to reduce deaths and serious injuries on our roads to zero.

Listening to and understanding the needs of our communities is critical. I have been pleased to see the efforts taken to consult and collaborate with community through increasingly uncertain times. It is through meaningful engagement that we will deliver a highway of the future that responds to how communities want to move in the future and can contribute to the places and economies it serves; making more liveable, better connected places to be.

We'll work closely with the Australian Government to provide long term benefits to the communities of South Coast NSW. We are pleased with the progress so far and look forward to keeping you updated as we deliver a safer and more reliable Princes Highway.

Princes Highway upgrade map – September 2020

Projects on the Princes Highway are at different stages and all serve to contribute to a safer, more reliable, more efficient and better connected transport network for South Coast NSW. This is their status as of September 2020.

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 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 construction

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



Achievements of the program over the past six months include:

- Five Princes Highway upgrade projects have progressed to the design phase including Jervis Bay Road intersection upgrade, Jervis Bay Road to Sussex Inlet upgrade, Milton Ulladulla bypass, Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay upgrade and Moruya bypass.
- Batemans Bay Bridge replacement is just over half way through and has already exceeded its Aboriginal Participation in Construction targets. Over \$2.5 million has been invested locally on Aboriginal businesses and employment. Over 10 per cent of workers are from the Aboriginal community.
- 96 per cent of bridge girders on the Albion Park Rail bypass project have been installed.
- Over 150 kilometres of highway was damaged following the 2019/20 bushfire season. Repair work included three kilometres of new guardrail and over 300 replaced signs.
- Completed construction of the first road bridge in Australia to use Australian weathering steel girders, on Berry to Bomaderry upgrade.
- Surpassed three million worker hours across Albion Park Rail bypass, Berry to Bomaderry upgrade and Batemans Bay Bridge replacement since the projects began.
- From September, 45 weekly bus services will improve connectivity and better meet customer needs in the Shoalhaven as part of the 16 Regional Cities Program. This will ensure public transport on and around the Princes Highway meets the specific needs of transport users, delivering more reliable services and better connections to the places people want to visit and at the times they want to travel.



Albion Park Rail bypass



Project Snapshot

Current Status: Under construction

Start of Construction:

February 2019

Completion Date: 2022

Project Benefits:

- Planning for the future
- Up to 30 per cent travel time saving
- Returning local streets to local communities
- Improving the efficient movement of freight
- Six times less likely to crash
- Reducing flood impacts
- Up to 16 intersections bypassed
- Better and more reliable trips for locals, tourists, businesses and freight
- Improving connectivity for the Albion Park community
- Increasing road capacity
- Last town to be bypassed between Sydney and Bomaderry

Contractor: Fulton Hogan

Transport for NSW (Transport) is building an extension of the M1 Princes Motorway between Yallah and Oak Flats to bypass Albion Park Rail. The NSW Government is funding the \$630 million project. The bypass would complete the 'missing link' for a high standard road between Sydney and Bomaderry.

What has happened so far?

March–September 2020

- Completed bridge piling
- 96 per cent of bridge girders and planks installed
- Bridge into Albion Park was opened
- New Croom Regional Sporting Complex shared path and access road was opened
- New Croome Road bridge and shared path was opened
- Pavement work has started on the new motorway

What is coming up?

September 2020–2021

- Traffic changes on the new East West Link
- Installing the remaining bridge planks
- Continuing with pavement work on the new motorway
- Traffic changes on Oak Flats roundabout including installing traffic lights
- Installing kerb and gutter, guardrail and signage
- Landscaping



Over 1.8 million
worker hours



2590 staff
inducted on the project



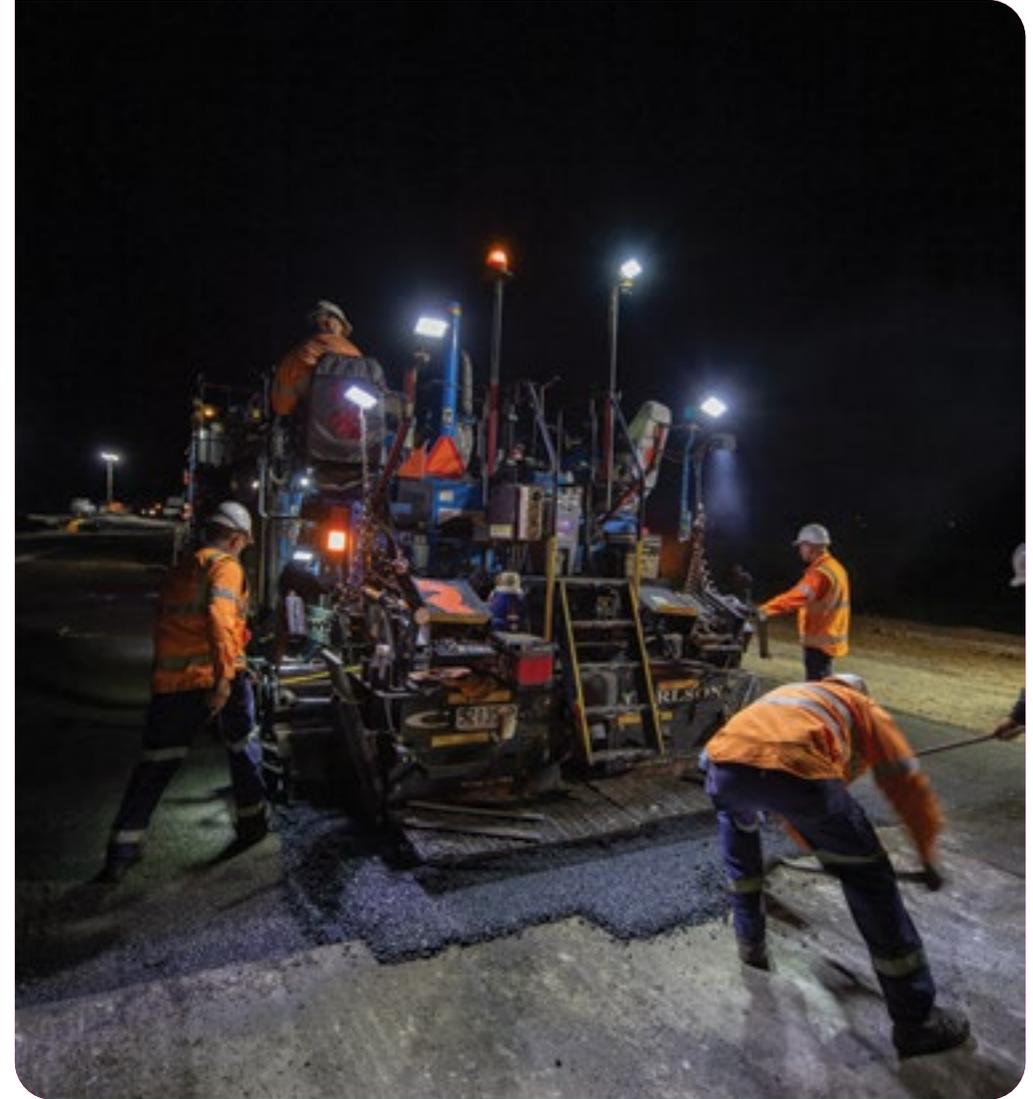
96 per cent
of bridge girders
and planks installed



96 per cent of bridge girders have been installed as of September 2020



Extension of the M1 Princes Motorway between Yallah and Oak Flats



Night work, Albion Park Rail bypass

Batemans Bay Bridge replacement project



Project Snapshot

Current Status: Under construction

Start of Construction: March 2019

Completion Date: Early 2023

Project Benefits:

- Better and more reliable trips for people business and freight
- Improving intersections for highways and local roads
- Connecting communities
- Improving safety

Contractor: John Holland Group

The \$274 million project will deliver a four lane bridge, improved intersections and build better connections in and around Batemans Bay for motorists, freight, river users, pedestrians and cyclists.

The replacement bridge will enable uninterrupted access under the bridge for river vessels within a 12 metre vertical clearance limit above mean high water springs (MHWS). Other key design elements of the new bridge include:

- fewer piers in the water and wider spans for improved river flow, safer navigation for river users and a more appealing bridge design
- four lanes of traffic with two lanes in each direction
- three metre wide shared path for pedestrians and cyclists with ramps and stairs to be provided on both sides of the new bridge for accessibility

The Batemans Bay Bridge replacement project is over half complete with the substructure of the bridge finalised and superstructure of the new bridge now taking shape as the 80-105 tonne concrete bridge segments continue to be delivered and installed.

 **Over 500,000 worker**
hours completed on the project so far



The concrete bridge segments used to build the Batemans Bay Bridge are among the **widest** in mainland Australia measuring up to 20 metres each



About **48 per cent** of the workforce is local

What has happened so far?

March–September 2020

- Continuing bridge segment production, delivery and erection
- Complete marine pier construction
- Open the upgraded Kings Highway and Princes Highway intersection – two left slip lanes opened to traffic in June 2020
- Earthwork to realign Wharf Road and Clyde Street

What is coming up?

September 2020–2021

- Progressing work to establish a new floating pontoon on the southern foreshore following completion of geotechnical investigations
- Completion of retaining walls
- Continuing to build the superstructure of the bridge



Major work on Batemans Bay Bridge replacement, looking south to Batemans Bay

Berry to Bomaderry upgrade



Project Snapshot

Current Status: Under construction

Start of Construction: 2018

Completion Date: 2022

Project Benefits:

- Improving safety
- Increasing road capacity
- Improving traffic flow

Contractors: Downer Seymour Whyte Joint Venture

When completed, the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade will deliver better and more reliable journeys on this section of the highway. It will be the final piece of more than 30 kilometres of highway upgraded between Gerringong and Bomaderry since work started in 2012.

What has happened so far?

March–September 2020

- Completed construction of the first road bridge in Australia to use Australian weathering steel girders at Pestells Lane. This will soon be operational and is the first of two Princes Highway overpasses on the project to open to traffic
- First stage of major traffic switch onto new sections of highway between Croziers Road and Ison Lane including a new bridge at Jaspers Brush Creek. This will allow work to start on upgrading the remaining sections of old highway

What is coming up?

September 2020–March 2021

- Stage two of major traffic switch onto new sections of highway between Ison Lane and Abernethys Lane including new bridges at Wileys Creek, Tandingulla Creek, Abernethys Creek and Devitts Lane underpass
- Construction to begin on the project's second bridge constructed from Australian weathering steel girders at Strongs Road overpass
- Opening up new intersections at Croziers Road, Jaspers Brush Road and Abernethys Lane
- Opening up new sections of highway as they are completed



720,000m³
of material moved or imported



950,000 workforce
hours completed



210 of 261
steel cased piles constructed

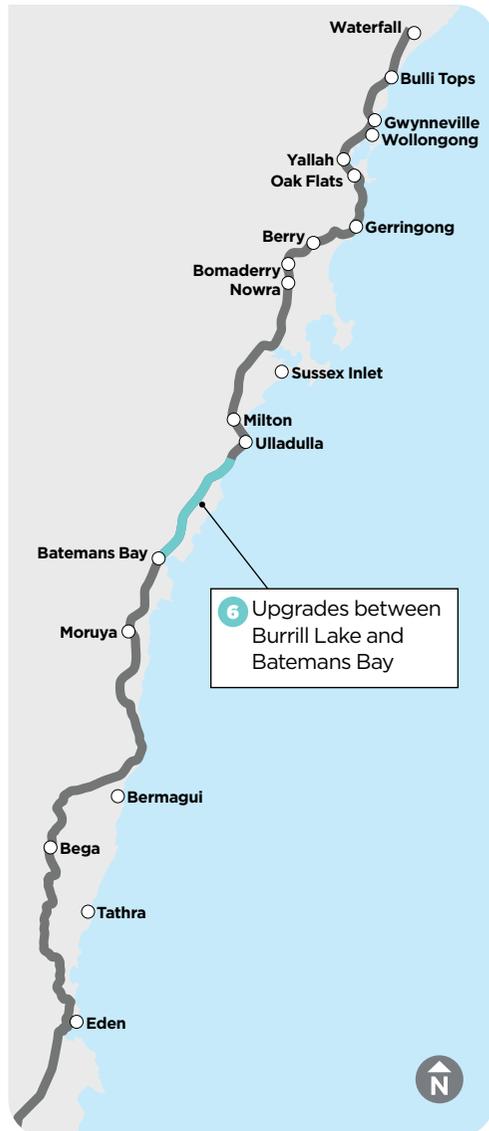


The highway upgrade will provide a four-lane divided highway between Berry and Bomaderry



The Pestells Lane bridge is the first road bridge in Australia to use Australian weathering steel girders

Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay upgrade



Project Snapshot

Current Status: In planning

Start of Construction:

To be determined

Completion Date:

To be determined

Project Benefits:

- Improving safety and reliability for all Princes Highway transport users
- Improving connectivity with key east-west road corridors
- Enabling more efficient movement of freight
- Supporting regional economic growth

Contractor: AECOM Australia Pty Ltd – strategic investigation and design

The proposed upgrade of the Princes Highway between Burrill Lake and Batemans Bay would deliver safer and more reliable journeys on the South Coast.

The upgrade would address the 86 crashes on this section of highway in the five years from 2014 to 2018.

The strategic investigation is under way and the design and features of the proposed upgrade have not been determined.

What has happened so far?

March–September 2020

- Awarded a contract to AECOM Australia Pty Ltd to deliver the strategic investigation and design of the highway upgrade
- Started investigations such as preliminary traffic and transport modelling and utility analysis to assist in developing upgrade options and identifying a preferred option

What is coming up?

September 2020–March 2021

- Identify and release preferred strategic option for consultation
- Publish a consultation report assessing feedback raised during the preferred strategic option consultation period
- Start further design and investigation work on the preferred option
- Continue initial field investigation work including biodiversity and heritage surveys, preliminary geotechnical investigations, and ground and utility survey investigations



Improve safety
for all road users



Identify upgrades to
45 kilometres
of Princes Highway



Enable more efficient
movement of **freight**



Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay

Jervis Bay Road and Princes Highway intersection upgrade



Project Snapshot

Current Status: In planning

Start of Construction:

To be determined

Completion Date:

To be determined

Project Benefits:

- Safer and more reliable journeys
- Improving connectivity with Jervis Bay Road
- Delivering safer access to and from local roads

Contractor: Arcadis Australia

Pacific Pty Ltd – concept design and environmental assessment contract

The intersection has some of the highest volumes of vehicle movements on the highway between Nowra and the Victorian border and has been the location of 15 crashes in the five-year period up to 31 December 2018, resulting in six serious and 11 minor injuries.

During consultation earlier this year, the community told us what they value most when it comes to an upgraded intersection: 62 per cent most value safety and 33 per cent reliability and less congestion. A safer and more reliable intersection is our priority.

What has happened so far?

March–September 2020

- Developed strategic options for the proposed intersection by identifying benefits and constraints
- Displayed strategic options, including grade separation (fly over), roundabout and traffic signals. Received feedback from over 800 community members. We responded to the COVID-19 outbreak and moved all consultation online. 62 per cent of respondents most valued road safety.

- Published consultation report assessing feedback raised and next steps for the project
- Carried out initial field investigations including utility survey and a preliminary geotechnical study
- Awarded a contract to Arcadis Australia Pacific Pty Ltd to carry out the concept design and environmental assessment
- Started traffic studies and environmental assessment work to inform updates to design options and identify a preferred design option



Over 800
comments received
on strategic options



62 per cent
of community most
value a safer intersection



33 per cent
of community most value reduced
congestion and better reliability

What is coming up?

September 2020–March 2021

- Identify and release a preferred option
- Continue field work such as biodiversity and heritage assessments and geotechnical and survey investigations for the preferred option
- Continue development of the environmental assessment and concept design for the preferred option in preparation for public display in 2021



Jervis Bay Road and Princes Highway intersection, Falls Creek, looking south

Jervis Bay Road to Sussex Inlet Road upgrade



Project Snapshot

Current Status: In planning

Start of Construction:

To be determined

Completion Date:

To be determined

Project Benefits:

- Improving safety and reliability for all Princes Highway transport users
- Improving connectivity with key east-west road corridors
- Enabling more efficient movement of freight
- Supporting regional economic growth.

Contractors: Cardno (NSW/ACT) Pty Ltd – strategic investigation and design

The proposed upgrade of the Princes Highway between Jervis Bay Road and Sussex Inlet Road would deliver safer and more reliable journeys on the South Coast.

The upgrade would address the 126 crashes on this section of highway in the five years from 2014 to 2018.

The strategic investigation is under way and the design and features of the proposed upgrade have not been determined.

What has happened so far?

March–September 2020

- Carried out preliminary environmental investigations including biodiversity to inform strategic investigation and design
- Completed an aerial survey to inform development of strategic options for the upgrade
- Awarded a contract to Cardno (NSW/ACT) Pty Ltd to deliver the strategic investigation and design of the highway upgrade
- Started investigations such as preliminary traffic and transport modelling and utility analysis to develop upgrade options and identify a preferred option



Improve safety
for all road users



Identify upgrades to
20 kilometres
of Princes Highway



Enable more efficient
movement of **freight**

What is coming up?

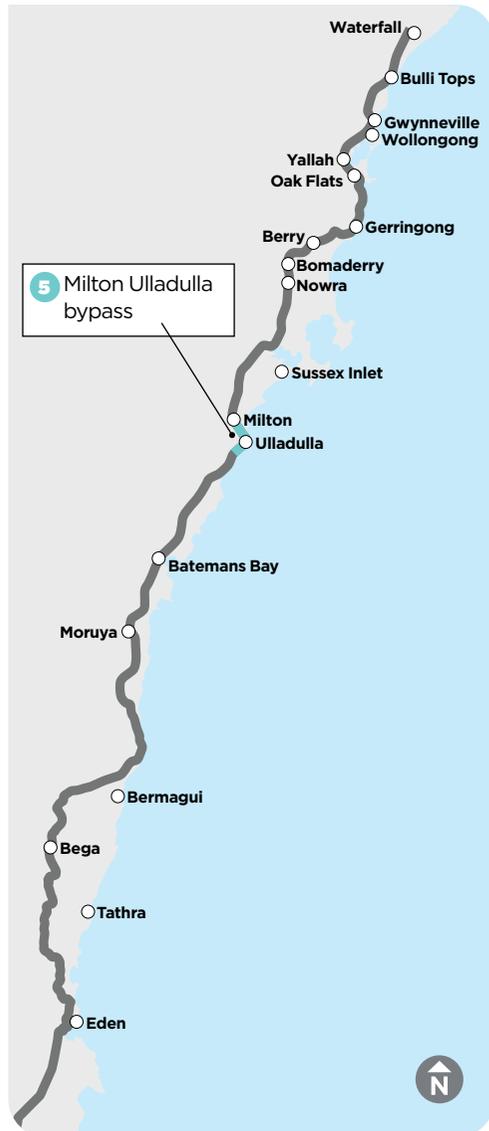
September 2020–March 2021

- Identify and release a preferred option
- Start further design and investigation work for the preferred option
- Continue field investigation of biodiversity and heritage, geotechnical and utilities



Entering Wandandian, Princes Highway

Milton Ulladulla bypass



Project Snapshot

Current Status: In planning

Start of Construction: NA

Completion Date: NA

Project Benefits:

- Safer and more reliable journeys between South Coast communities
- Reducing travel time, particularly in holiday periods, by removing the need to pass through a number of intersections
- Improving the liveability within the Milton and Ulladulla town centres and enhance the appeal of the area.

Contractors: Arcadis Australia Pacific Pty Ltd – strategic investigation and design

A Milton and Ulladulla bypass would reduce travel time, improve road safety and enhance the liveability of Milton and Ulladulla town centres.

A bypass would address 85 crashes on the section of highway between 2013 and 2018.

We invited feedback on the identified corridor for the Milton Ulladulla bypass shown in the Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan and asked to hear about how transport users carry out journeys through Milton and Ulladulla.

What has happened so far?

March–September 2020

- Consulted with the community and received feedback from over 600 community members. We responded to the COVID-19 outbreak and moved all consultation online. Over 40 per cent of feedback related to route selection
- Published consultation report assessing feedback raised and next steps for the project
- Awarded contract to Arcadis Australia Pacific Pty Ltd to deliver strategic investigation and design
- Started studies and environmental assessment work to identify a preferred design option



692 submissions
were received from individuals,
community groups and government



40 per cent
of feedback
related to option
selection



Addressing
85 crashes
on the highway
between 2013 and 2018

What is coming up?

September 2020–March 2021

- Identify and release preferred option
- Continue field work such as biodiversity and heritage assessments and geotechnical and survey investigations for the preferred option
- Continue development of the environmental assessment and concept design for the preferred option in preparation for public display in 2021

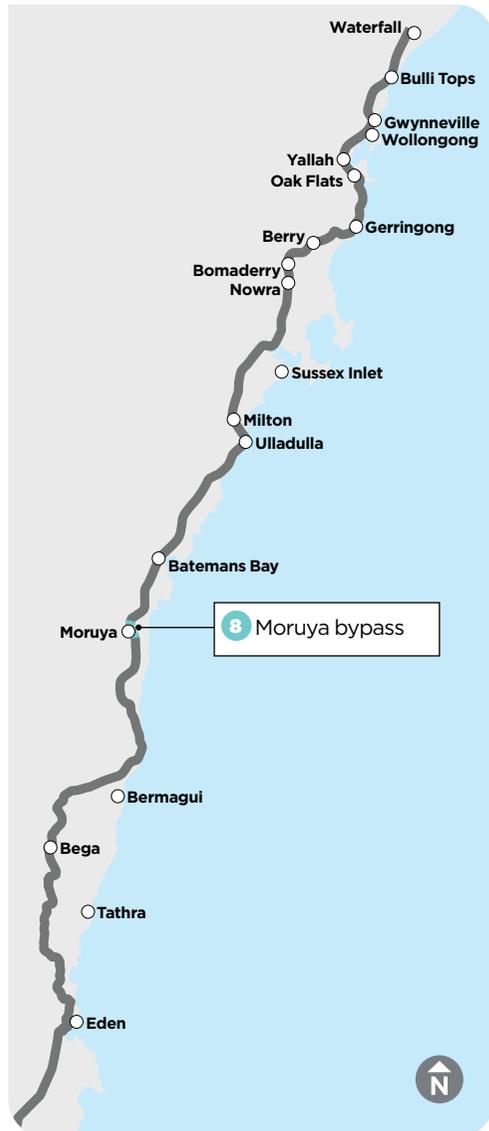


Milton



Ulladulla

Moruya bypass



Project Snapshot

Current Status: In planning

Start of Construction:

To be determined

Completion Date:

To be determined

Project Benefits:

- Enhancing the atmosphere and liveability of the Moruya town centre for locals, pedestrians and businesses and provide the opportunity for improvements
- Reducing travel time, particularly in peak periods, by removing the need for vehicles to pass through numerous intersections
- Improving safety in the town by taking trucks off local roads
- Catering for future growth of the town and provide ease of access to essential services such as hospitals and schools.

Contractors: Arup Australia Pty Ltd
- strategic investigation and design

The proposed Moruya bypass would deliver safer and more reliable journeys, unlock opportunities to grow the regional economy and contribute to the liveability of the town.

The strategic investigation is under way and the design and features of the proposed upgrade have not been determined.

What has happened so far?

March–September 2020

- Consulted with the community and received over 290 comments. We responded to the COVID-19 outbreak and moved all consultation online.
- Published consultation report assessing feedback raised and next steps for the project
- Awarded a contract to Arup Australia Pty Ltd to deliver the strategic investigation and design of the bypass
- Started investigations including traffic and transport modelling to help identify a preferred option



Enhance
the amenity
and liveability
of the town



Improve
efficiency
by removing the need
for vehicles to pass
through numerous
intersections



Improve
safety
in the town by
taking trucks
off local roads



Cater for future
growth of the town and provide
ease of access to essential
services such as hospitals
and schools

What is coming up?

September 2020–March 2021

- Identify and release preferred option
- Continue field work including biodiversity and heritage assessments and geotechnical and survey investigations for a preferred option
- Continue development of the environmental assessment and concept design for the preferred option in preparation for public display in 2021



Moruya bridge, looking north west

Mount Ousley interchange



Project Snapshot

Current Status: In planning

Start of Construction:

Yet to be confirmed

Completion Date:

Yet to be confirmed

Project Benefits:

- Improving travel times
- Safer access to and from the motorway to Mount Ousley Road
- Improving access to the Wollongong CBD and University of Wollongong
- Improving safety by separating cars and heavy vehicles travelling down Mount Ousley
- Improving amenity for pedestrians and cyclists, provides for future traffic growth

Contractors: N/A

Transport is planning for an interchange on the M1 Princes Motorway at the base of Mount Ousley.

What has happened so far?

The Review of Environmental Factors and concept design was displayed in late 2017 and the submissions report was published in April 2018.

In response to ongoing consultation and investigations, we have continued to improve the design of the proposed interchange.

What is coming up?

The project has planning approval and the next stage will be to prepare the detailed design. Timing and funding for construction of the interchange upgrade is not yet confirmed.



Mount Ousley interchange

Nowra Bridge Project



Project Snapshot

Current Status: Construction

Start of Construction: Early work started February 2020. First sod turned mid June 2020.

Completion Date: Mid 2024

Project Benefits:

- Improving safety, capacity and efficiency across the Shoalhaven River
- Removing over height and over mass restrictions on the existing southbound bridge
- Improving local and regional connectivity
- Improving pedestrian and cyclist access, safety and connectivity

Contractor: Fulton Hogan

The Nowra Bridge project will provide a new four lane concrete bridge over the Shoalhaven River, upgraded intersections and additional lanes on the Princes Highway.

The \$342 million project is jointly funded by the NSW and Australian Governments. It will improve traffic flow and ease congestion on a major section of the Princes Highway and deliver safer, more reliable journeys within the Nowra-Bomaderry area.

The project's need is based on the asset replacement of the existing southbound bridge which can only carry highway traffic for a limited time, has substantial maintenance costs and restrictions on overheight vehicles.

The project also includes upgrades to over 1.7 kilometres of the Princes Highway to provide three lanes in each direction, as well as intersection upgrades at Bolong, Illaroo and Bridge Roads.

The old Nowra Bridge will be repurposed following project completion and further investigations into the repair work required will occur once traffic is removed from it.



Artist impression of the Nowra Bridge project, looking north



Improved connectivity
Better pedestrian and cyclist links



Improved intersections
Safer and more reliable access
to local roads



Reduce traffic delays
More lanes to improve traffic flow

What has happened so far?

March-September 2020

- Early work started to prepare for construction, including site establishment, utility and geotechnical investigations, demolition of acquired properties and vegetation clearing
- First sod was officially turned to mark the start of work in mid June 2020
- Work started on the temporary rock platform
- Detailed design and urban design and landscape plan was displayed for community feedback
- Removal of concrete medians on the Princes Highway to allow traffic to be shifted and a new work zone created

What is coming up?

September 2020–March 2021

- Detailed design finalised following community feedback
- Closure of Scenic Drive and Bridge Road to provide a safer working area
- Completion of the temporary rock platform
- Piling and foundation work to start for the new bridge
- Traffic changes will come into effect at various locations across the project as the project progresses



Geotechnical investigations in the Shoalhaven River – March 2020



Construction of the temporary rock platform from the southern foreshore – August 2020

South Batemans Bay Link Road



Project Snapshot

Current Status: Detailed design

Start of Construction: TBC

Completion Date: TBC

Project Benefits:

- Increasing access and capacity to support future growth
- Better, safer and more reliable trips for people and business, between the Princes Highway and southern coastal villages
- Enhancing the liveability of Batemans Bay and contribute to its attractiveness, sustainability and success
- Improving safety and reduce the severity of crashes
- Improving traffic flow in the Batemans Bay town centre

Contractors: WSP Australia (detailed design)

The NSW Government has committed \$30 million to connect the Princes Highway to Glenella Road, which will complete the South Batemans Bay Link Road project.

The proposal includes a new roundabout on the Princes Highway. Glenella Road (formerly part of The Ridge Road) would also be upgraded as a new two lane road which connects to the Princes Highway. Eurobodalla Shire Council completed Stage 1 of the South Batemans Bay Link Road in 2019 which connects George Bass Drive to Heron Road.

Batemans Bay currently experiences congestion along Beach Road and in the Central Business District due to growth in the region and increased traffic during peak holiday periods. The South Batemans Bay Link Road would improve safety, improve access for the southern coastal villages and support the long term growth and development of the South Coast region.

What has happened so far?

March–September 2020

- Environmental assessment and concept design were prepared and put on display for community feedback. 58 submissions were received
- Submissions report completed and project approved in August 2020
- Carry out detailed design

What is coming up?

September 2020–March 2021

- Award contract for detailed design



Increase access and capacity to support future growth



improve safety and reduce the severity of crashes



Improve traffic flow in the Batemans Bay town centre



Artist impression of the Princes Highway, proposed roundabout and upgraded Glenella Road, looking east

Road safety

Over the past six months, Transport has delivered work that has improved safety for our customers. The Princes Highway upgrade and the Saving Lives on Country Roads initiative aim to reduce the number of serious injuries on our network to zero.

Projects delivered as part of the Saving Lives on Country Roads program over the past six months have focused on reducing run-off-road and head-on crashes by addressing high risk curves through improved curve signage, widened shoulders, vehicle activated signage and flexible safety barriers.

Safety features installed since March 2020 as part of the Saving Lives on Country Roads initiative include the installation of:

- rumble strips
- wider centre lines
- flexible safety barrier
- motorcycle barrier
- wider shoulders on curves and straight sections
- curve alignment markers
- curve advisory signs
- vehicle activated signs.

Over \$16 million has been spent on the Saving Lives on Country Roads initiative so far targeting the crash types commonly related to lane departure and driver fatigue by installing a number of key treatments:

- audio tactile line marking
- wide centreline combined with audio tactile line marking
- flexible safety barrier
- motorcycle underrun
- sealed shoulder widening at curves and on straights
- curve alignment markers
- curve advisory signs
- vehicle activated signs.

Case Study: Safety improvements on the Princes Highway

Boardinghouse Road

Cost: \$7.4 million

Status: Complete

Work Included: installing median and roadside safety barriers and shoulder widening

Mogo to Moruya safety improvements

Cost: \$1 million

Status: Work under way

Work includes: Guardrail installation, widened shoulders and the installation of flexible barriers at various sites on an eight-kilometre section of the Princes Highway.

Doctors Creek upgrade

Cost: \$1.9 million

Status: Completed

Work Included: Shoulder widening and widened centrelines.



Workplace safety

The challenges of the past six months have placed greater emphasis on Transport's commitment to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of all workers.

The COVID-19 outbreak has required all workers to adapt their work places to ensure their safety and the safety of their communities.

Since March, major projects including Batemans Bay Bridge and Albion Park Rail bypass have developed a range of protocols in their workplaces to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This includes hand washing and hygiene practices, encouraging vulnerable workers to stay home, carrying out daily health screenings, social distancing where possible and finding new ways to meet with stakeholders.

Extensive traffic management plans have been developed to mitigate congestion and reduce the risk of accidents on major projects and safety improvement works on the Princes Highway including Albion Park Rail bypass, Berry to Bomaderry upgrade, Nowra Bridge project, Island Point Road intersection upgrade, Boardinghouse Road improvement, Batemans Bay Bridge replacement and Mogo to Moruya safety improvements.

Case Study: Scott Fergusson stays safe as possible when working on the side of the road.

Scott Fergusson, from Nowra, is an engineer for Transport supporting a range of road safety improvements throughout the NSW South Coast.

While work and studies took him afar, he's happy to be back home enjoying the South Coast and delivering valuable work for his community.

Safety is at the core of Scott's role.

"Traffic Control is absolutely crucial when my team's working on the side of the road. It's what keeps ourselves and other road users safe."

Scott is looking forward to continuing his work on Princes Highway upgrade and working with his community

and colleagues to deliver safer and more reliable journeys for his local community.

Click on the image to hear Scott his travels on the NSW South Coast and the importance of Safety in his role.



'The safety of our workers and road users is always our highest priority.'

Building resilience to natural disasters

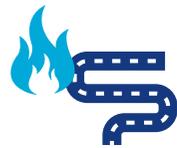
A key focus over the past six months has been to repair the highway network following the 2019/20 bushfire season and improve the resilience and reliability of the highway to future hazards and emergencies.

Repairing and improving resilience

The 2019/20 bushfire season impacted vast amounts of road infrastructure and severely affected the reliability of the transport network.

While the immediate response during and after the bushfire events was to open the network to enable movement of essential services and freight, the past six months has been focused on repairing the Princes Highway and ensuring the network is resilient and can adapt to hazards, emergencies or natural disasters.

The NSW Government provided \$43 million to repair and restore the state's transport networks. Over the past six months, work on the Princes Highway has included:



150 kilometres of the Princes Highway was fire damaged between Nowra and the Victorian border



Over three kilometres of guard rail was replaced



Over 320 signs were replaced



840 guide posts were replaced

Case Study: Preparing for the future

In August 2020, Transport started removing high risk trees along 350 kilometres of the Princes Highway between Jervis Bay Road and the Victorian border. The work aims to improve the resilience of the highway by removing vegetation that may impact the highway in a future bushfire event.

Environmentally and culturally sensitive areas are being carefully assessed and impacts to local wildlife are being prevented or minimised.

Our focus over the past six months has also been on the long term resilience of the highway. We've been consulting with emergency services and other Government agencies to understand how future upgrades to the Princes Highway might further improve resilience.



“Bushfire resilience enables Transport for NSW to respond quickly when a bushfire is occurring, adapt journeys if required and reopen transport networks as soon as possible”
Joanne Parrott,
Director South

Local contractor engagement

Transport is working with local contractors and prioritising Australian businesses to ensure our projects strengthen local economies and create sustainable employment opportunities throughout the regions we serve.

Services carried out on projects including the Batemans Bay Bridge replacement and the Albion Park Rail bypass include:

- traffic control
- concrete supply
- asphalt production
- concreting, welding plumbing and electrician services
- metal fabrication
- drainage supplies and installation
- earthwork operators
- underboring services
- small crane and equipment hire
- quarry products
- local timber supply
- hospitality including accommodation and catering
- office administration resources

Case Study: Using local contractors to install noise treatments

While we always try to minimise and prevent noise impacts when planning highway upgrades, sometimes noise reduction treatments on nearby properties are required.

Based on noise modelling almost 200 properties were identified as potentially eligible for treatment as part of the Albion Park Rail bypass.

Local contractors are carrying out noise treatments on these properties, including installing fresh-air ventilation, fitting acoustic seals, installing window glazing and new windows.

The project has engaged six local businesses to supply and install the ventilation systems, windows and glass for the treatments.



Photographs of at-house treatment work being carried out at properties as part of Albion Park Rail bypass.

Employment and training

Over the past six months, Transport has developed the skills of a future generation of workers who will work with us to deliver the Princes Highway upgrade into the future.

The NSW Government-led Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program (ISLP) continues to provide employment opportunities in the construction sector for under-represented groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The ISLP has now been rolled out to multiple projects including Albion Park Rail bypass, Batemans Bay Bridge and Berry to Bomaderry bypass.

The Princes Highway upgrade program would create about 1000 direct and 3000 indirect jobs for South Coast communities, based on the existing commitment of \$1.5 billion from the NSW and Australian governments. About 10,000 direct jobs and 30,000 indirect jobs would be created over the next 20 years if funding levels are maintained.

Highlights over the past six months include:

- Batemans Bay Bridge project is just over half way through the project and has already exceeded its Aboriginal Participation in Construction targets. Over \$2.5 million has been invested locally on Aboriginal businesses and employment.
- About 70 per cent of workers on the Albion Park Rail bypass project are from the local community.
- 21 per cent of works on the Albion Park Rail bypass are engaged as learning workers, with 12 trainees and 16 apprentices on site.
- The Batemans Bay Bridge replacement team is made up of seven per cent female, 10 per cent Aboriginal and almost nine per cent under 25.

Case Study: Partnering with Yumaro in Batemans Bay

Batemans Bay Bridge replacement project has partnered with local disability support organisation Yumaro to provide training and employment opportunities for local people with disabilities.

Yumaro is a local NDIS service provider offering employment, training, lifestyle, accommodation and home and community support

services to people with a permanent disability in the Eurobodalla and Shoalhaven regions.

Local Yumaro workers are supporting the work on the Batemans Bay Bridge project by filling hundreds of sandbags for important environmental controls across the project.



“This is a great initiative to provide opportunities for local people with disabilities and we would like to thank the Yumaro employees for playing an important role on our project.”
Jo Parrott,
Acting Director Southern

Aboriginal engagement and heritage

Transport is committed to working closely with Aboriginal people and groups throughout development and delivery of the Princes Highway upgrade program.

It is essential that before infrastructure projects start, the potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage are identified and managed appropriately. Effective consultation with Aboriginal people is an important step in the process of identifying Aboriginal objects, places or cultural values and minimising impacts to ensure the long-term protection, care, conservation and management of Aboriginal heritage.

Aboriginal Participation in infrastructure construction plays a key role in helping develop the skills of workers in regional areas as well as helping local Aboriginal people get the upskilling, training and employment for a sustainable career in the construction industry on work sites across NSW.

Achievements over the past six months include:

- The Aboriginal Participation in Construction target total spend for the project is 1.5 per cent of the contract value, and to date the project has spent 88 per cent of this target value.
- Aboriginal participation on the Batemans Bay Bridge project is currently at 10 per cent, exceeding NSW state and project targets.
- A mural is currently being painted in the Nowra Bridge project Community Display Centre by a group of local Aboriginal youth involved in the South Coast Aboriginal Medical Service's Justice Reintegration program. This mural design features two local Aboriginal groups with the rainbow serpent covering the bridge, the black duck which is a totem animal for the Yuin Nation, and Cullunghutti Mountain – a place of cultural significance for local groups.

Aboriginal heritage investigations have been carried out at the development stage of major projects, including Jervis Bay Road intersection.

Case Study: Story Telling and the Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program

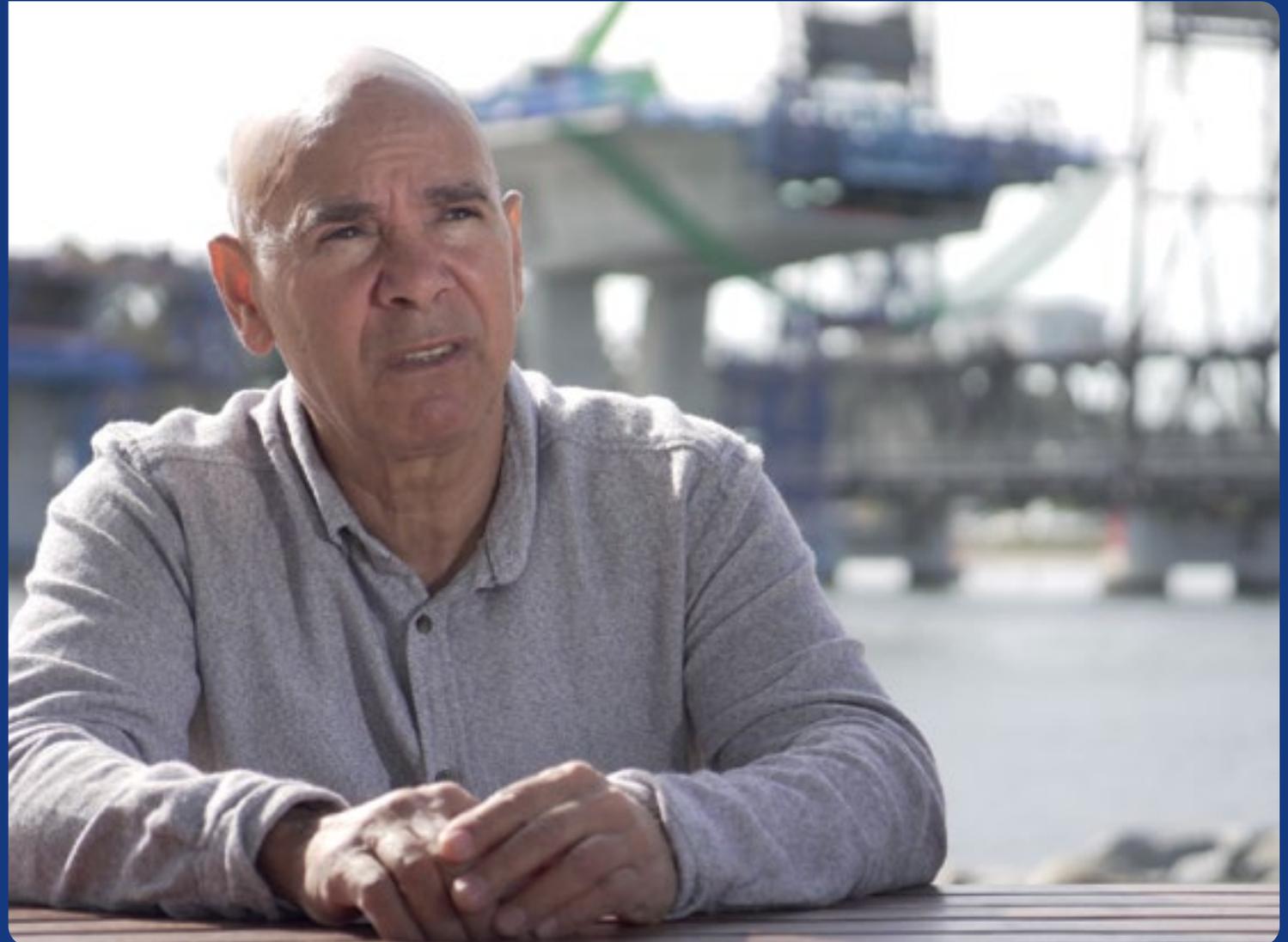
Uncle Owen, of the Walbunja people, has played a key role on the Batemans Bay Bridge replacement project as mentor to the local Aboriginal community taking part in the Infrastructure Skills Legacy Training Program (ISLP).

As mentor, Uncle Owen is helping local Aboriginal young people earn a range of certifications and qualifications that develop the skills necessary to establish a career in the construction sector.

Trainees on the project are undertaking Certificates II and III in Civil Construction, and other accredited courses in areas related to the construction sector including Work Health and Safety, Conservation and Land Management, and Business Administration.

Through Uncle Owen's mentorship, about 10 per cent of the project's workforce is from the local Aboriginal community including 16 employees and seven trainees.

Uncle Owen is excited to see training and employment opportunities continue as the Princes Highway upgrade progresses throughout the NSW South Coast.



'The ISLP gives the indigenous community an incentive and pathway to full time employment in a growing sector.'

Engaging with community

We are committed to meaningfully consulting communities throughout all stages of a project and the past six months has redefined how we engage.

We consulted on three Princes Highway projects between Monday 16 March and Monday 13 April 2020.

Transport adapted and innovated its community engagement in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Our face to face community information sessions and stakeholder meetings were moved online.

We received feedback from over 1500 community members. Despite these challenging times, we enabled community members interested in our projects to be involved in the decision-making process.

Jervis Bay Road intersection improvements

- Transport received 741 comments via an online survey, 89 emails including four submissions from emergency services and one submission via video conference call with community group Vincentia Matters.

Milton Ulladulla bypass

- Transport received 590 comments via an online mapping tool, 90 emails and 12 phone calls.

Moruya bypass

- Transport received feedback from 89 people via an online mapping tool, who posted a total of 232 comments. Transport also received 63 emails from 57 individuals, one from a business group and one from a community group.



Stimulating local economies

The NSW Government is providing funding to support communities in response to economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. As part of the Supporting NSW Economic Stimulus Package, Transport is delivering a range of works that maintain our road network and boost employment and stimulate local economies.

Since March 2020 over \$1.5 million has been allocated to key projects on the Princes Highway corridor from Wollongong to Batemans Bay.

Work over the past six months has included:

- repairing and resurfacing sections of the Princes Highway near West Wollongong
- road widening, installation of roadside safety barrier, widened centreline near Bega
- general maintenance, including rock removal, along the Princes Highway near Batemans Bay



Stimulus funds have supported general maintenance and safety improvements on the Princes Highway



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