The Australian Government and NSW Governments are investing almost $134 million at Bolivia Hill to bring the New England Highway in line with a modern, efficient highway which will deliver safer, more reliable trips.
Progress to date

At the beginning of October, almost half of the bridge’s 61 concrete segments had been poured. Twenty-nine segments have been placed from pier one, located at the southern end of the project. The form traveller is being moved to start pouring segments from pier two. Form travellers are used in cantilever bridge construction to pour the concrete for the bridge deck segments in position.

A form traveller is installed at the top of each pier and concrete segments are poured sequentially to counterbalance the pier structure during construction.

Work to build the first bridge abutment has been completed and retaining walls are being built at the northern and southern abutments.

Stage one of road work has been completed. The new road embankment north of the bridge is also nearing completion.

Upcoming work

In the coming months the following activities are planned:

• Pouring segments from pier two
• Continuing to build the road north and south of the bridge.
• Traffic switch onto the new embankment north of the bridge to allow continued construction of drainage and road pavement.
Project completion and funding

While good progress has been made during construction in 2020, completion for the project is now scheduled for the second half of 2021, weather permitting.

This is an extremely challenging and complex project, in large part due to the nature of the site and terrain. A combination of unanticipated geotechnical conditions, including variability in the required rock strength as well as the depth of rock levels, drought and bushfires have led to the revised completion date.

The necessary design and delivery changes have also required increased investment in the project to ensure it is delivered as committed.

Consequently, the project received a $43 million boost in the October Federal Budget.

Total project funding for the Bolivia Hill project is now $133.7 million, which includes $98 million from the Australian Government and $35.7 million from the NSW Government.

Controlled blasting

Earlier this year we carried out a controlled blast at the southern end of the project to remove about 2800 cubic metres of hard rock from beneath the existing road surface.

The rock needed to be removed to build a new bridge abutment at this location.

Bolivia angel

The Bolivia Hill angel is back where it belongs.

The angel is a memorial for the life of six-year-old Billie Ward, who died when her dad’s truck ran off the road in 1993.

Prior to work starting in 2018 the project team carefully removed the angel and placed it in temporary storage.

Work to reinstate the angel, to the east of the new alignment, has been completed and Transport for NSW has subsequently contacted the Victoria-based family.

Traffic arrangements

The single lane traffic arrangement will remain in place to allow road rebuilding work to be carried out. An upcoming traffic switch onto the new embankment north of the bridge will allow continued construction of drainage and road pavement on the eastern side of the highway and construction of the two bridge abutments.
Contact us:
If you have any questions or would like more information about the Bolivia Hill upgrade please contact our project team:

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Improving freight productivity
Better and more reliable trips for people, business and freight
Reducing fatalities and serious injury
Improving safety

This document contains important information about Transport projects in your area. If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call Transport Projects on 1800 958 057. The interpreter will then assist you with translation.