



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Transport for NSW

Building a Better Dubbo

Project update | January 2022



Map of the five projects in Dubbo

Together, the Australian Government and the New South Wales Government are investing \$301.2 million in five Building a better Dubbo transport infrastructure projects. These projects will reduce congestion, deliver safer, more efficient, and reliable journeys for those traveling in, around and through Dubbo, and better connect communities in the Central West.



Smoother and safer road surfaces



Boost Freight productivity



Improved safety for all road users

BaBD program update

As of December 2021, the Building a Better Dubbo program has proudly delivered four of the five road upgrades in Dubbo, saving travel time and enabling more efficient freight transport and time-saving benefits to motorists in and around Dubbo.

In mid 2022, the early works program for the Newell Highway Upgrade, New Dubbo Bridge is planned to commence. The Australian and NSW Governments have jointly funded the \$200 million project that will improve freight efficiency on the Newell Highway, reduce traffic congestion and provide an additional route during flood events. It will assist in easing congestion in Dubbo when most needed.

People and employment

The Dubbo project team has continued working with Dubbo Regional Council and the Chamber of Commerce to raise awareness of local business and supplier opportunities.

Engaging women, Aboriginal, trainees and young workers are a focus for our Dubbo projects.

We are particularly proud of the strong Aboriginal participation on this program, with over 70 workers employed as part of the Aboriginal Participation in Construction program.

This involvement provides immediate benefit to the local economy through an upskilled workforce that will make a strong contribution to a sustainable and diverse industry base within the communities in the Central West.

Outcomes



Local and regional workers make up 45% of the BABD workforce



Aboriginal Participation in Construction (APiC) expenditure currently about 10% of program



All traffic control subcontractors have been Aboriginal owned businesses

Benefits of the BaBD program



More efficient travel

Improved traffic flow in Dubbo and reduced average traffic delays will provide more efficient journey times.



Improving freight efficiency

Improve traffic efficiency by better regulating traffic flow to accommodate increasing traffic volumes



Connecting communities

The road upgrades will provide better and safer connections between communities in the Central West.



Improving road safety

The road upgrades will improve safety by reducing conflict between local and through traffic and between vehicles and pedestrians and cyclists.

Freight focus

The Newell Highway and Mitchell Highway are part of the National Land Transport Network. This network is essential to linking businesses and industries through road and rail infrastructure which connects major cities and regions. The Newell and Mitchell highways are a vital part of the road network through Dubbo and the surrounding region.

This improves freight travel times and reduces driver frustration and fatigue creating a safer road environment for all. These improvements on a major freight corridor are appreciated by transport operators and heavy vehicle drivers who regularly travel the route.



The New Dubbo Bridge survey team is committed to protecting Aboriginal and non Aboriginal cultural heritage



What's happening next

Newell Highway upgrade, New Dubbo Bridge

Members of the project team will continue to meet with residents and businesses within the project area to minimise any potential impacts, such as property access prior to any works taking place along the various sections.

This project will be delivered in stages, to minimise disruption to traffic during major work. We will provide regular updates to the community on the progress and delivery of the program of works.



Map of the Newell Highway Upgrade, New Dubbo Bridge project

Protecting landscape and heritage

Over the last few months, you may have seen teams undertaking survey work, or even had them on your property. These technical specialists are making sure that we have a clear understanding of the environment and are identifying any potential impacts the project may have and how these can be minimised and mitigated.

We have been working closely with archaeologists and Aboriginal site officers on archaeological site investigations this year. The Aboriginal community will help us decide how to relocate and preserve any artefacts that are required to be moved as part of the project.

We will consult with the community to develop Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural interpretation strategies, to identify stories, places and ways to celebrate local history.

We also have plans to beautify Wiradjuri Park, to create an attractive community space and we will be consulting with the community and be working with the Aboriginal community to ensure the park is improved respecting the Aboriginal heritage.

Next steps

The project team has carried out extensive investigation works including geotechnical investigation, survey and contamination. These works have been used to inform the delivery of our detailed design which has now been finalised.

In March, Transport will facilitate a market briefing for pre-qualified contractors to learn more about the project.

This will be followed by a call for tenders for the main contract work in late April.

Local Contractors will also get the opportunity to attend an industry forum in Dubbo in May to network with pre-qualified tenderers.

Businesses and suppliers can also register their interest to be involved in the project with the Industry Capability Network Gateway at gateway.icn.org.au.

The project team has also finalised a package of works that will commence in 2022 as part of our early works program.

The early works will support the main road and bridge construction commencing in early 2023.



What's been completed

Newell Highway upgrade, West Dubbo

The upgrade to the Newell Highway in West Dubbo provided a stronger and longer lasting road at this key entry point to Dubbo. Work was complete and open to traffic on 1 July 2019.



Looking toward the Minore Road and Newell Highway intersection

Newell Highway Mitchell Highway intersection upgrade

Upgrade to the Newell Highway and Mitchell Highway intersection in Dubbo. As part of the upgrade, the roundabout was removed and replaced with traffic lights to better regulate traffic flow, ease significant congestion as well as improve road safety and efficiency. This project was complete and open to traffic on 1 November 2021.



The new traffic lights at the Newell Highway and Mitchell Highway intersection in Dubbo

LH Ford Bridge strengthening

Strengthening work on the iconic LH Ford bridge, with construction of two new support piers in the Macquarie River extending the life of the bridge and to allow for heavy vehicles up to 68 tonnes, which was complete and open to traffic on the 31 March 2020.



Two new strengthening piers on the LH Ford Bridge, Dubbo

Mitchell Highway (Cobra Street) and Fitzroy Street intersection upgrade

Upgrade to the Mitchell Highway (Cobra Street) and Fitzroy Street intersection. As part of the upgrade, the roundabout has been removed and replaced with traffic lights to reduce congestion for highway and local traffic, particularly during peak hours. This project was complete and open to traffic on 14 December 2021.



The new traffic lights at the Mitchell Highway (Cobra Street) and Fitzroy Street intersection in Dubbo

Community feedback from West Dubbo

We're trying to run a business and you're trying to do a job also. End result, we're very happy with the road itself.

Henry
IGA West Dubbo

It was a little bit frustrating trying to work around navigating traffic. In the end, it's a relief that it's done. It's over, it's finished. Couldn't ask for a better intersection now it's definitely better than what it was.

Alex,
Dubbo City Motorcycles

I found that the staff at Transport were very good at keeping me informed. If I had any concerns, they would listen and they would act really promptly.

Rod
BP West Dubbo

Its a really nice road. I've had no negative responses from customers. They're seeing the way it flows.

Margaret
Aussie Rural

Contact us

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