



Sportsmans new bridge looking south

Sportsmans Creek new bridge

Project update – May 2017

The NSW Government is funding the \$27 million bridge project in Lawrence, as part of the Bridges for the Bush program. Work started in July 2016 and the bridge is expected to be open to traffic in mid 2018. This update outlines progress being made on the project.

Background

Roads and Maritime Services has contracted Delaney Civil Pty Ltd to build the new Sportsmans Creek Bridge to improve road safety and traffic efficiency. The project includes:

- a seven span concrete bridge structure 175 metres in length with a navigational clearance of 4.7 metres
- a pedestrian path with a safety barrier to separate pedestrians from traffic on the bridge
- a new road connecting Grafton Street with the new bridge
- landscaping along Grafton Street and Grafton-Lawrence Road
- new street lighting along Grafton Street.

Current activities

Grafton Street improvements

Work is continuing to improve the connection of Grafton Street with the new bridge. To do this part of Grafton Street has been temporarily

closed to motorists since late 2016, and will remain closed until November 2017, weather permitting. The temporary closure is necessary to allow utilities to be relocated and the upgrade and widening of Grafton Street. Motorists accessing properties south of the Lawrence Tavern from Grafton Street will continue to be detoured via the lane north of the Lawrence Tavern.

Access to the Lawrence General Store and properties along Grafton Street will continue to be available during this time.

Intersection of Weir and Ensby roads

A temporary side road is in place for motorists at the intersection of Weir and Ensby roads to allow work on the road approach to the new bridge. Motorists accessing Weir Road will continue to travel on the temporary side road until late 2017, weather permitting.

Upcoming works

Intersection of Grafton and Bridge streets

Work is expected to start in mid-2017 to provide a new intersection to Bridge Street from Grafton Street. The new intersection is being provided to retain access to Bridge Street once the new bridge is open. More information will be provided to the community prior to this work starting.

Building the new bridge

Work is progressing on the new bridge with concrete being poured for the bridge piles, columns, headstocks and abutments. Once these works are finished, the bridge beams (girders) will be delivered to site and lifted into place. To assist in the delivery of the large girders, which are 30 metres in length and weigh 50 tonnes each, some minor traffic disruptions may occur. More information will be provided prior to this work starting.

Existing bridge

After considering the public submissions received during the July/August 2016 display period, Roads and Maritime has determined the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and announced its decision to remove the existing bridge. The removal work will be carried out with strict adherence to environmental controls. A submissions report is now available on the project website, www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects (search **Lawrence - Sportsmans Creek**) showing responses to all questions and comments raised.

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has reviewed both the submissions report and the REF for the removal of the existing bridge, and agree the environmental mitigation measures proposed are appropriate, provided certain conditions are met. Those conditions are explained in the Concurrence Letter also available on the project website. The existing bridge will be removed after the new bridge is finished and opened to traffic.

Historical significance of the existing bridge

A model of the existing bridge has been built to recognise the significance of the bridge to the local community. After discussions with the Lawrence Historical Society and Museum, it has been agreed to display the model at the local museum.

Environmental management

Microbats

Roads and Maritime has developed an innovative solution to minimise the disruption to the large breeding colony of the threatened Large-footed Myotis microbat, as a result of removing the existing bridge.

Removal of the existing timber bridge would mean the microbats will need to relocate. The solution was to include microbat roosting and breeding habitat into the new concrete bridge design. This is the first time such structures have been integrated into a new bridge in Australia.

Ten bat boxes have also been installed on the existing bridge to assist in the relocation of the bat population to the new bridge. The bat boxes will be relocated to the new bridge before the existing bridge is removed. Seasonal monitoring of the bats is also being carried out and will continue for three years after the bridge is built.

Sportsmans Creek

A number of actions are being used in Sportsmans Creek to minimise the environmental impact from building the bridge. These include:

- using barriers around work areas to contain and control the dispersion of silt and sediment in the creek
- using temporary floating barriers to contain any potential sediment
- monitoring the water quality of Sportsmans Creek.



Artist's impression of new bridge

For more information

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🌐 www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects (search Lawrence - Sportsmans Creek) ✉ Sportsmans Creek new bridge, PO Box 576 Grafton, NSW 2460

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