

Transport for NSW

Windsor Bridge Replacement Project

Community Update | April 2020



Construction progress on the new Windsor Bridge

The NSW Government is building a new Windsor Bridge to provide a safe and reliable crossing of the Hawkesbury River at Windsor

Transport for NSW started major work on the Windsor Bridge replacement project in September 2018. We are now preparing to open the new bridge to traffic in mid 2020 and complete the project in early 2021.

At the end of the project the people of the Hawkesbury will have a new, safer and more reliable bridge that will improve traffic outcomes and flood resilience. We are also improving Thompson Square and will create an open and green place with direct access to the River for the local community.

The new bridge will

- Improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists
- Improve traffic flow with wider lanes and shoulders
- Improve cyclist and pedestrian connectivity to the Hawkesbury
- Withstand higher flood levels
- Bring together the open space in Thompson Square

What is happening?

We appreciate the patience and understanding of the community while we have been building the new bridge. We have four key milestones left to deliver this project to the community in early 2021.



1. Open the new bridge to traffic

In the next few months the new bridge will be ready for vehicles. Over an extended working weekend, we will complete the final roadwork to enable traffic to drive on the new bridge. Following this switch, the existing bridge will close, all traffic will use the new bridge and the new roundabout on the northern side of the bridge will be open.

2. Remove the existing bridge

After we have all traffic using the new bridge and relocated the services, we will begin removing the existing bridge. The method used to remove the bridge is designed to minimise the impact to the river and surrounding areas.

We will maintain sections of the bridge that will remain as part of the heritage interpretation on either side of the river, including the viewing platform near Thompson Square. We expect to remove the existing bridge in around three months.



3. Turn on the George and Bridge Street traffic lights

In late 2020 we will turn on the new traffic lights at the Bridge Street and George Street intersection. This will improve traffic flow and provide safe crossings for pedestrians. This will be the final part of the road project that will improve traffic conditions and reduce waiting times.

4. Thompson Square open

By early 2021 we will complete work on the unified space in Thompson Square. The new space will be open it for all the community to enjoy with direct access to The Terrace and the river and the new viewing platform.



Extended weekend work to open the new bridge

Switching traffic onto the new bridge will take some carefully planned work. To carry this out successfully, we will need to alter the traffic conditions to allow work on the road including some occasions where we will need to fully close the bridge at night. To minimise disruption to the community and the road network, we will do this over a single weekend in the next few months.

The following conditions will be in place over the weekend:

- Two lanes of traffic would be open during the day with work zone conditions
- Overnight closures where the bridge would be fully closed to all traffic
- A detour would be in place via North Richmond which would add up to an extra 45 minutes of travel time
- There would be no access to Freemans Reach Road or Macquarie Park.

We will ensure we provide the community with plenty of notice about when the new bridge will open, dates, times and specific details about the bridge closures.

Temporary changes to Freemans Reach Road

After we switch all traffic onto the new bridge, we need to carry out important work at the new roundabout and the bridge approach roads. To carry out this work safely, we will need to temporarily close access to Freemans Reach Road for around 12 weeks. During this time there would be residents only access to Freemans Reach Road and a detour via Wilberforce would be in place.

We will advise the community, including residents and businesses along Freemans Reach Road as early as possible and we appreciate your patience and understanding while we carry out this key part of the project.

Project progress model

Explore our new 3D interactive model and see the project from a new perspective. You can see the progress as our model is updated at stages throughout the project.



Design modification update

Between October and November 2019, The Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE) publically displayed the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project design modification report.

This proposed design change will have the following benefits for traffic:

- improved northbound traffic flow through the Bridge and George Street intersection
- reduced delays in afternoon peak including at the Bridge and George streets intersection
- improved travel times and reliability and reduced queue lengths in the afternoon peak
- the predicted waiting times during the afternoon peak would reduce from 62 seconds to 20 seconds, based on predicted traffic volumes in 2026

During the public display there was 33 submissions from the community and stakeholders.

Transport for NSW has reviewed and responded to the submissions in a Submissions report. This has been lodged with DPIE, who will now consider and determine the application. Once DPIE makes its determination, it will be publically available on the DPIE portal.

The Submissions report is now available to view on the project web page or the DPIE portal www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/25556



Aerial view during the February flood

February flood

The Hawkesbury River experienced a flood event that saw the existing bridge close and go underwater.

Our work site was well prepared for the heavy rain that was forecast over the weekend. Once the flood warning was issued the site crew took the necessary preparations for the predicted flood event.

While the flood has caused some minor short term delays, it is not expected to affect project completion in early 2021.

The existing bridge did experience some damage as a result of the flood. The pedestrian walkway and handrails have now been repaired and have reopened to the community.

To determine whether there has been any further damage to the bridge, investigations need to be done below the waterline by specialist divers. For this to happen the area under the bridge needs to be clear of debris, the river currents need to be stable and have sufficient visibility in the water for the divers to inspect the structure. We appreciate your patience until this important work is done.

Construction update

The new bridge is now fully launched across the river and we are now completing the final work to prepare the bridge approaches to open the new bridge to traffic.

Upcoming work includes activities such as:

- Work on the bridge deck, concrete barriers and railings
- Concreting for the final bridge approaches and work on the approach roads
- Work on the new pedestrian stairs in Thompson Square
- Installing utilities including water and sewage pipes as well as electricity cables for the new traffic lights.
- The reconstruction of The Terrace
- Removing the marine scaffolding from the piers.

Work is also continuing on the northern approach to prepare the new roundabout for traffic.

Contact us

For more information on the project please visit rms.nsw.gov.au/windsorbridge
Thank you for your patience during this work.

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