

Windsor Bridge Replacement Project

Community Update | August 2020



The new Windsor Bridge is open

The NSW Government is providing a safe and reliable crossing of the Hawkesbury River at Windsor with the new Windsor Bridge.

Transport for NSW started major work on the Windsor Bridge replacement project in September 2018. The new bridge is now open to traffic and we expect to fully complete the project by early 2021.

The people of the Hawkesbury now have a new, safer and more reliable bridge with improved flood resilience. When the project is finished the community will also experience improved traffic conditions and be able to enjoy a unified and open green space in Thompson Square that provides direct access to the Hawkesbury River.

Project features

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

The new Windsor Bridge is open

The new Windsor Bridge opened to traffic on Monday 18 May 2020.

This is an exciting and significant milestone for the project. However, there is still more work to deliver the entire project to the community.

The new bridge currently has two of its three lanes open to traffic. The new roundabout is operating on Wilberforce Road and work is continuing to upgrade the end of Freemans Reach Road and connect it into the new roundabout.

You can get a bird's eye view of the new bridge through the 3D interactive model on the project website.



The new Windsor Bridge currently has two of its three lanes open to traffic



Final landscaping including the water quality basin, and improved road safety with the new roundabout on the northern side of the river.

Landscaping

The final landscaping is starting to take shape on the northern side of the bridge. Planting is complete in the new roundabout on Wilberforce Road and the water quality basin.

Once the landscaping is complete, over 30 new trees will be planted on southern side of the Hawkesbury River and over 50 trees on the northern side.

Work is well underway to bring together the open space in Thompson Square.

Improvements to Windsor Wharf Reserve

Transport has partnered with Hawkesbury City Council to include Windsor Wharf Reserve in the project's landscaping plans. This area was identified in Council's *Plan of Management for Windsor Foreshore Parks (2013)* to tie in with changes to Thompson Square as part of the project and improve connection to the river. Transport for NSW is pleased to be

completing these improvements to Windsor Wharf Reserve on behalf of Council, which will improve the amenity and link the area together for the local community.

What is happening next?

There are three key stages remaining to complete the project.

- we will begin removing the bridge in the coming weeks and we've started preparing the site for this work.
- the new traffic lights at the George and Bridge Street intersection will be turned on, and the third lane will open later in the year. This will complete the final part of the road project.
- the new unified space in Thompson Square connecting The Terrace, the river and the new viewing platforms, will open by early 2021.

Freemans Reach Road upgrade

Work to upgrade Freemans Reach Road is progressing and is expected to be completed in early September. Due to unexpected ground conditions and recent wet weather, there has been significant work needed to raise the road level to connect it into the new roundabout on Wilberforce Road.

This work will improve safety at the intersection by removing the dangerous right turns previously needed to exit Freemans Reach Road and Macquarie Park. The work will also provide two lane access into the new roundabout, which will improve traffic flow, especially in the morning peak.

We sincerely appreciate the patience and understanding of road users and the local community while we carry out this important part of the project.

Replacing the bridge

Windsor Bridge has played an important role in shaping the history of the Hawkesbury, serving the area for well over a century as a link between the communities on either side of the Hawkesbury River.

The old bridge was built in 1874 to replace a punt crossing of the river. Over time it has undergone a series of alterations including raising the bridge height in 1896 due to frequent flooding, replacing the timber deck with concrete during the 1920s, and adding the pedestrian walkway in the 1960s.

The old bridge has now reached the end of its design life and will be removed. Assessments have shown the cast iron piers have reduced in thickness and become brittle and the bridge deck is in poor condition with wide cracks and concrete degradation.

The new Windsor Bridge ensures there will be a safe and reliable link across the Hawkesbury River at Windsor for many years into the future.



Concept design example of heritage interpretation signage reflecting the history of Windsor Bridge

Heritage Interpretation

Transport continues to acknowledge the significance of Windsor Bridge and Thompson Square. As part of the project we engaged heritage specialists to develop a Heritage Interpretation Plan that aims to respect, preserve and showcase the Aboriginal and colonial heritage of the area, in the context of the project. The Heritage Interpretation Plan is being developed and informed by experts following extensive stakeholder and community consultation. Once finalised, the plan will be available to the community.

Key features of the heritage interpretation plan include:

- The bridge** – the bridge abutments on either side of the river will be converted into viewing platforms to highlight the original bridge alignment.
- The southern viewing platform will retain the first bridge span which will showcase all the elements of the existing bridge including the piers, steel support structure and the concrete deck.
- Specialists working on the project have captured archival recording and 3D imagery of Windsor Bridge. This content will be featured on a dedicated Thompson Square History and Heritage website.
- Floods** – a range of actual historic flood levels are reflected in the bridge's brickwork.
- Interpretation signage** – signage at key locations, such as the viewing platforms, highlighting the history and significance of spaces and features.
- Thompson Square Collection Display** – we are working with Hawkesbury City Council and the Hawkesbury Regional Museum to display a collection of artefacts uncovered throughout the project. This includes features such as reconstructing a section of the brick Box Drain.



Concept design examples of heritage interpretation signage

How will we remove the old bridge?

We will begin removing the old bridge in the coming weeks. To prepare, we have started to set up some of the specialist equipment needed for this work. The bridge removal is expected to take around three months to complete.

The bridge will be dismantled and removed carefully and safely in sections. We have chosen the removal method to minimise the impact to the river and the surrounding environment. This will also ensure we preserve the bridge abutment on the northern side, and the first bridge span including the pier, on the southern side of the river. Both of these will be transformed into viewing platforms with views across the river.

The first stage in the process is to remove the bridge deck. This will be done in sections, starting on the southern end of the bridge until the full length of the bridge deck has been removed.

When we have finished removing the bridge deck, we will then start to remove the bridge piers.

Contact us

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

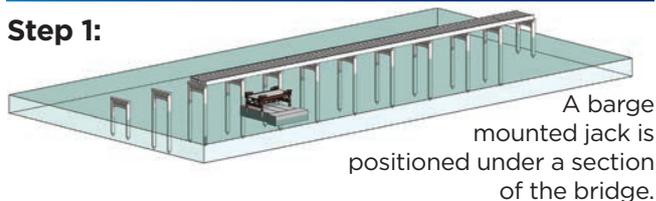
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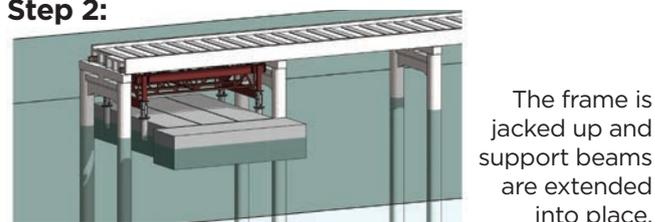
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Bridge deck removal

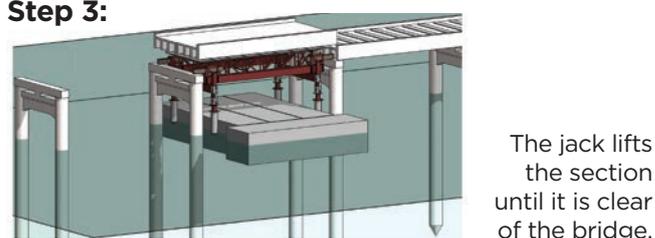
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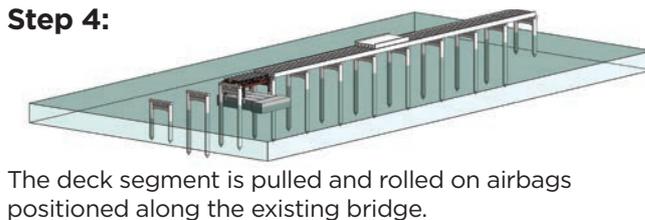
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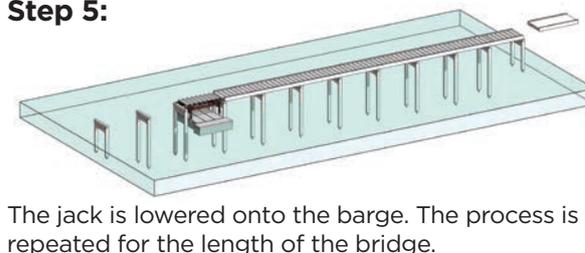
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Step 4:



Step 5:



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