



Australian Government

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**



Transport for NSW

# Barton Highway Upgrade

Community update | Autumn 2021



An aerial image of the first stage of the Barton Highway duplication project

The Australian and NSW governments are investing in the Barton Highway upgrade to improve safety and journey reliability for all road users, ease congestion and boost freight productivity. Major construction is now under way and is expected to be completed in the second half of 2023, weather permitting.

## Background

The first stage of the Barton Highway upgrade will provide a new two-lane northbound carriageway from south of the NSW/ACT border to about 300 metres north of Kaveney's Road at Jeir. During this first section of work, eight kilometres of the Barton Highway will be duplicated to four-lane highway (two lanes in each direction), including a median separation.

The detailed design for the first stage is currently being finalised following completion of the environmental assessment in late 2020. During this process, the Barton Highway Upgrade Alliance has collaborated with Transport for NSW, project engineers and designers, stakeholders and members of the community to inform the detailed design and construction methodology.



**Improving safety**



**Reduced travel times**



**Boost freight productivity**

## Construction update

Major construction work is under way for the first stage of the Barton Highway upgrade and is progressing well. Over the last few months, construction activities have included:

- establishing temporary site compounds and storage areas
- removing Dellwood homestead
- installing temporary traffic control signage and safety barriers
- closing the rest area at the NSW/ACT border and temporarily closing the rest area 500 metres south of Nanima Road
- installing fencing around work areas
- installing 18 nest boxes within the southern section of the project near the NSW/ACT border
- removing vegetation and trees within the work area and weed spraying
- relocating utilities
- establishing erosion and sediment controls
- constructing box culverts
- carrying out earthworks for the new northbound carriageway
- starting construction on the deceleration lane and upgrading the Church Lane intersection
- sourcing and stockpiling materials needed for construction work.

## Nest boxes for native fauna

In April, the project installed 18 nest boxes in various trees within the southern section of the project near the ACT/NSW border. These nest boxes aim to provide additional breeding habitat and shelter for native fauna including birds and bats, that may be displaced during the construction and operation phases of the project. These boxes are regularly monitored and have been successful in attracting native fauna.



Nest box fixed to a tree near the ACT/NSW border

## Successful heritage salvage work

The Barton Highway Upgrade Alliance has worked closely with Heritage NSW and the Hall School Museum to identify items of local heritage significance uncovered during the recent removal of the 'Dellwood' property.

A number of these items were donated to the museum, including a century-old tanning pit, old vertical timber slabs from the house and other mementos from the tanning/grainery facility. Built by the Morris family at 'Dellwood' to support their boot-making business, the tanning pit is believed to be one of only two intact 'above ground' tanning pits in Australia.



Salvage removal of the old tanning pit from the 'Dellwood' property during January 2021



The new location of the old tanning pit at the Hall School Museum



Preparation work under way for the installation of precast drainage structures at Little Bedulluck Creek

## Aboriginal heritage – archaeological salvage work

Transport for NSW is committed to preserving Aboriginal cultural heritage and recognises the impacts of the Barton Highway upgrade.

During the environmental studies for the first stage of the project, 11 Aboriginal archaeological cultural sites were recognised, including two Ring Trees identified within the construction boundary.

Surface collection work was recently carried out to identify and salvage any items of Aboriginal significance.

## Next steps

Planned work over the coming months includes:

- continuing with the upgrade of the Church Lane intersection and starting work on the Rolfe Road upgrade
- installing variable speed limit signage along the Barton Highway within the construction area
- relocating high voltage power cables and optic fibre cables
- starting bulk earthworks for the new northbound carriageway
- continuing clearing works for the new northbound carriageway
- providing drainage line crossings, including creek crossings at Gooromon Ponds and Little Bedulluck Creek
- continuing construction and installation of precast drainage structures at Gooromon Ponds and Little Bedulluck Creek
- continuing erosion and sediment control work
- continuing fencing work
- continuing development of detailed design

## Project timeline



## Planning for the second stage

Work is progressing on the next stage of the Barton Highway duplication, which is being progressed under the Roads of Strategic Importance initiative. The next stage will continue duplication from the end of the first stage towards Murrumbateman.

Environmental surveys investigating threatened flora and fauna species in the area are currently being carried out. Aboriginal heritage pedestrian surveys are anticipated to start soon with Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) site officers and archaeologists.

Geotechnical and underground utility service location investigations are expected to start in June 2021, weather permitting. These investigations will determine the soil structure and placement of utilities for the next section of duplication.

## Construction work hours

We are working between **7am and 6pm from Monday to Friday** and **8am and 1pm Saturday**, excluding public holidays, weather permitting.

There may be some work required at night to reduce impacts on traffic. Nearby residents and the community will be notified in advance of this work.

## Traffic changes

There will be some temporary traffic changes to ensure the work zone is safe, including partial lane closures, traffic control and reduced speed limits during work hours which may affect travel times.

Road users are advised to allow an additional five minutes travel time to their journey.

Electronic message boards will advise motorists of conditions during the work.

Please keep to speed limits and follow the direction of traffic controllers and signs. For the latest traffic updates, you can call **132 701**, visit [livetraffic.com](http://livetraffic.com) or download the **Live Traffic NSW App**.

## Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Barton Highway upgrade please contact our project team:



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Bulk earthworks under way for the new northbound carriageway

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