



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Bolivia Hill upgrade

Project update

Transport for NSW | April 2020

The Australian and NSW governments are investing \$80 million at Bolivia Hill to bring the New England Highway in line with a modern, efficient highway which is safer to drive and time-saving for the freight industry.

Progress to date

New bridge piers

A major project milestone was reached late last year when the first of two bridge piers, including the pier head, was completed.

Pier one is located at the southern end of the project and, following the completion of the pier head, the form traveller was installed earlier this year. Form travellers are used in cantilever bridge construction to pour the concrete for the bridge deck segments in place. A form traveller is installed at the top of each pier and concrete segments are poured sequentially to counterbalance the pier structure during construction.

Pier two, located at the northern end of the project site, is nearing completion.

Additional ground stabilisation work was carried out before the footings and pier blades for pier two were built.

The final concrete pours for pier two will be completed by April, weather permitting, and then the northern form traveller will be installed.

Road widening and animal fencing

Excavation work has removed more than 31,000 tonnes of rock and soil to widen the eastern side of the highway. New drains were installed and road pavement work is now being carried out.

New fauna fencing has been installed on the eastern side of the highway to provide protection for motorists and wildlife.



Pier One and Pier Two construction progress, looking north east across the project site, February 2020

Support during bushfires

During recent bushfires, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) supported the Rural Fire Service by offering the Bolivia Hill upgrade site compound as a base to co-ordinate local firefighting efforts and provided access to stored water. Traffic arrangements were carefully monitored to ensure emergency services and motorists were able to travel safely through the project site.

Bolivia wattle

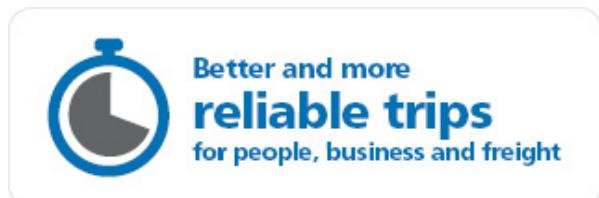
Extended periods of very dry conditions in the area resulted in an early and short flowering of the Bolivia wattle this year. The much-needed recent rains will hopefully rejuvenate the native wattle and lead to a longer flowering season next year.



Weather impacts

Flowering Bolivia Wattle within an exclusion zone on site in 2018

Some delays have been experienced over recent months, with unpredictable conditions including strong winds and heavy smoke resulting in work stoppages and the site being evacuated on several occasions.



Upcoming work

Over the next few months, pier two will be completed and the northern form traveller installed, weather permitting. This will allow concrete for the first deck segments to be poured for pier two.

At pier one, segments will continue to be poured for the bridge deck.

Work to build the bridge abutments will start and continue over several months. Abutments are substructures at the end of the bridge deck that allow the connection between the new bridge and upgraded highway.

Traffic switch

Another major project milestone was reached in the first week of April when traffic was switched from the western side of the highway to the newly widened and paved eastern side.

The single lane traffic arrangement will remain in place to allow road rebuilding work to be carried out on the western side of the highway and construction of the two bridge abutments.

Staying water wise

We continue to use water wisely and capture and reuse wherever possible on site. We monitor our usage and continue to look for opportunities to become more water efficient.

Contact us

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



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If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 958 057.