



Australian Government

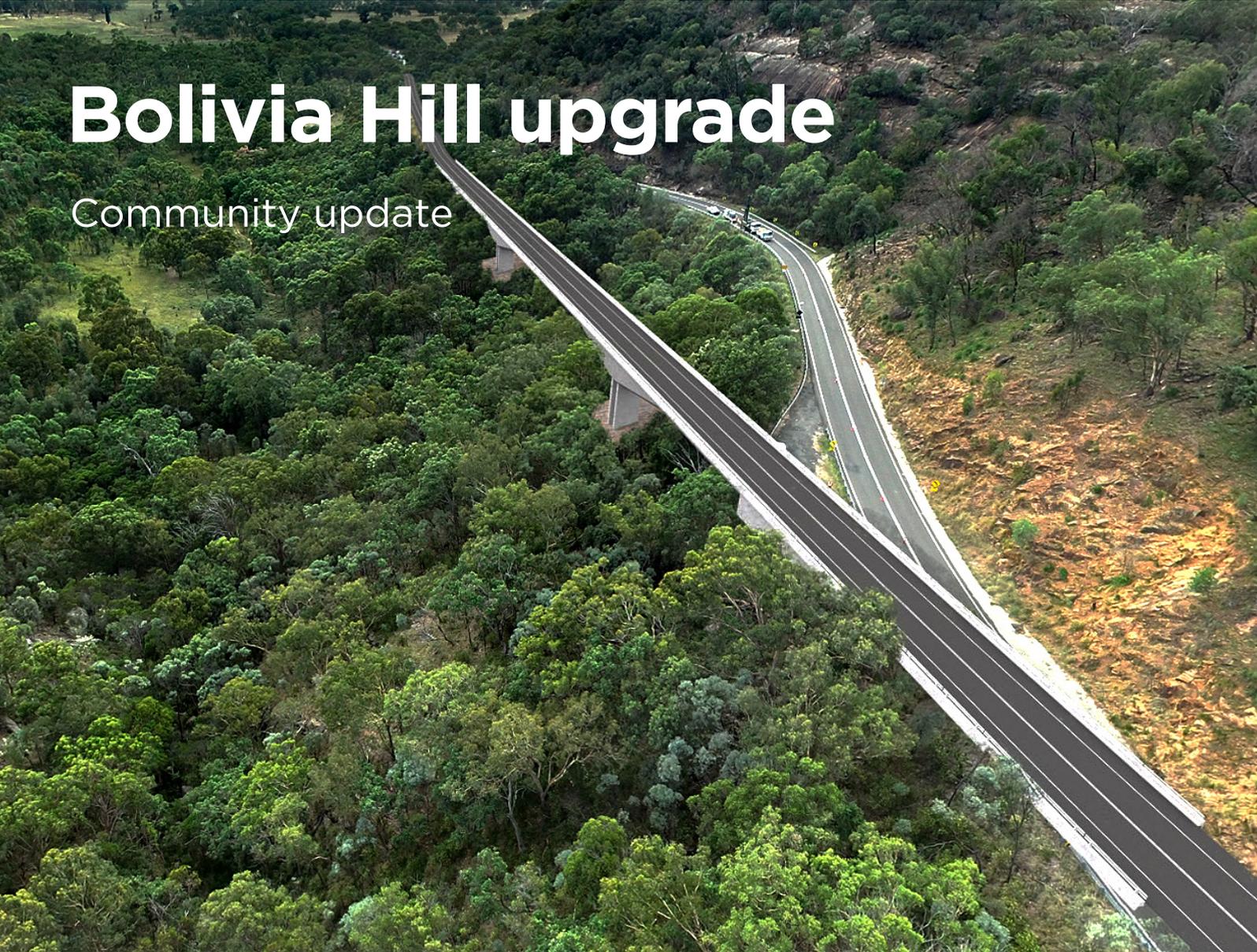
BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Roads and Maritime Services | November 2018

Bolivia Hill upgrade

Community update



Artist impression of southern approach to the new Bolivia Hill bridge showing the cutting into the eastern rock face required

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.



Project overview

Roads and Maritime Services is delivering the New England Highway upgrade at Bolivia Hill, about 35 kilometres south of Tenterfield.

The project involves building 2.1 kilometres of new highway, a new 320 metre long bridge, wider lanes in each direction and widened road shoulders to improve safety and freight travel times.

Work to date

Work to date has focused on building temporary access tracks and forming foundation sites for the two bridge piers.

The terrain on which the bridge is being built is extremely steep with a large number of granite rock outcrops. A large amount of early work has been carried out to build tracks for machinery and trucks to access the site.

The project team has carried out extensive slope stabilisation work at two sites where the bridge foundations will be built.

Traffic impacts

To allow for the construction of new sections of highway and the new bridge at Bolivia Hill the highway will be reduced to one lane for about a 3km section. The impact to traffic will be in three stages.

Table 1: Traffic impacts on New England Highway, Bolivia Hill.

Stage	Traffic arrangement	Expected delay	Expected timeframe
1	One lane 6am to 6pm Two lanes overnight	From 3 to 15 December full highway closure for 30 minutes between 9-10am, 12-1pm and 3-4pm Monday to Saturdays Remaining week 10 to 15 minute delays	3 December 2018 to 21 December 2018
2	One lane 24 hours permanent	10 to 15 minutes	January 2019 to December 2019
3	Two lanes	Occasional 10 to 15min delays	Early 2020 to completion of project end of 2020

Upcoming work

As we start the work to stabilise the slope adjoining the highway at Bolivia Hill, residents and road users will notice a significant increase in activity. During the next two months, the project team will begin to remove a number of granite boulders from the

eastern slope of the highway and install a rock fall fence. The work is in preparation for widening the highway and starting the bridge foundations.

This month we completed building the tracks to provide temporary access for work on the bridge foundations.



Site preparation for bridge foundations

Eastern slope stabilisation

In the next two months early work will be carried out on the eastern slope of Bolivia Hill in preparation for major work to widen sections of the highway from early next year.

Traffic will be fully stopped while boulders are removed to ensure the safety of motorists. These stoppages will occur at three set times each day except Sundays. This will occur for the first two weeks of the work and motorists can expect to be delayed up to 40 minutes.

Arrangements have been made to ensure emergency services and school buses will not be delayed.



Artist impression of northern approach to the new Bolivia Hill bridge showing the build-up of the lower slope required

Highway realignment

From next year the project team will focus on realigning sections of the existing highway to eliminate three tight, steep curves. This work is expected to take up to 12 months to complete.

The rock face on the eastern side of the highway will be cut back up to five metres and a section of the lower slope will be built up about 5.5 metres above the existing ground level. This work will result in a significantly safer highway with 3.5 metre wide travel lanes and two meter road shoulders.

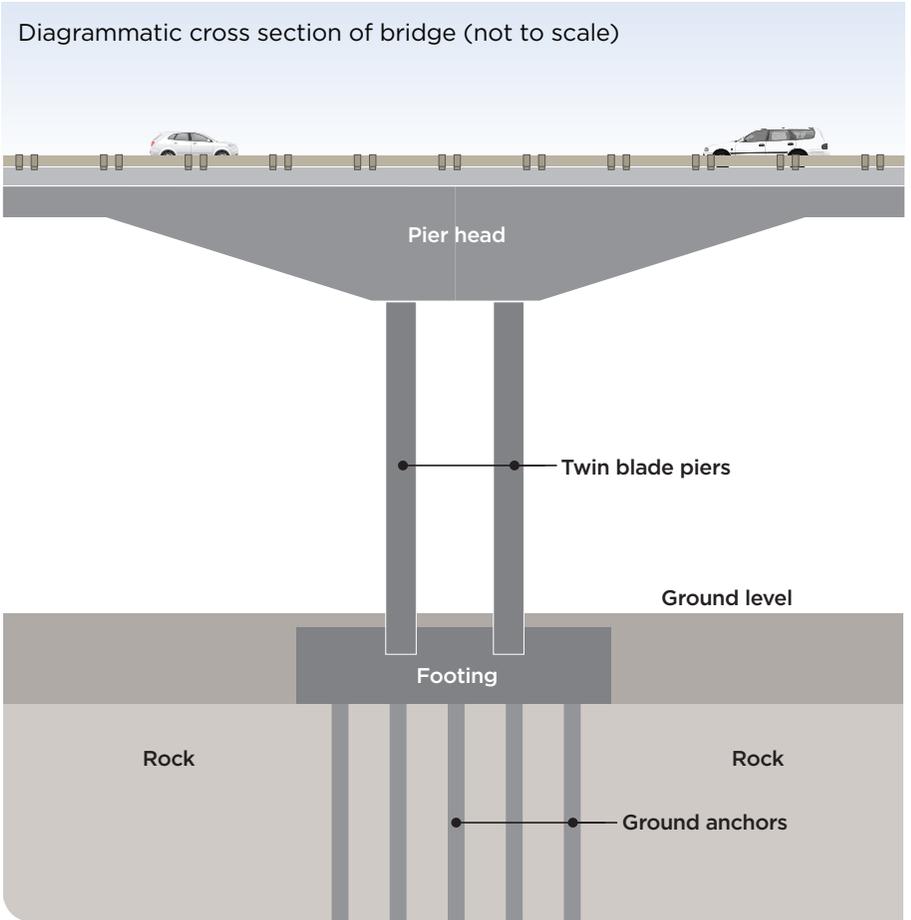


Artist impression of new bridge which removes three tight corners

Bridge construction

Work will also start next year on the 320 metre long bridge. A balanced cantilevered bridge will be used because it allows for longer lengths of bridge with less supporting piers. The steep terrain and the protected flora in the area means less piers is an advantage.

The preparation of the two bridge foundation sites has been progressing and the concrete foundations are expected to be poured early in 2019.





Work to stabilise the site for one of the two bridge foundation locations

Work hours

The work hours for the project have recently been extended to 6pm Monday to Saturday. The extension allows the project team to make the most of the available day light in the summer period and provides the opportunity for the project to be completed as soon as possible. Nearby residents will be notified at least five working days in advance of any activities scheduled outside of these working hours.



Preparation of the site for pier two foundation



Temporary retaining wall to allow access to the bridge foundation sites

For more information:

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Contact
the
project
team



If you need help understanding the information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1800 958 057 (option 4)**

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