



Australian Government

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Cessnock Road upgrade, Testers Hollow

Project update

June 2021

The Australian and NSW Governments are jointly funding this \$17 million project to upgrade Cessnock Road at Testers Hollow, to reduce the impact of flooding and improve connectivity.

The project will raise the height of Cessnock Road at Testers Hollow to provide a more reliable connection during certain flood events. Transport for NSW contracted Daracon Group to build the upgrade and work started in November 2020.



Aerial view of Main Road, looking southwest – February 2021

Did you know?

The recent March flood event reached a height of 5.8 metres above the road level and cut the existing road for about 11 days.

The completed road project will have a height of 6.2 metres, so would not be overtopped by a flood event of the same magnitude and Cessnock Road would remain accessible.

Project benefits

Overall the key benefits are:

- Reduce the frequency, duration and impact of flood events along Cessnock Road at Testers Hollow
- Improve connectivity between the Maitland area, Hunter Expressway and broader community during flood events
- Reduce flood-related social, economic and maintenance costs
- Provide better conditions for on-road cyclists
- Improve safety and reduce hazards.

Work in progress

Over the last few months, the project team have:

- Established temporary drainage to allow unobstructed flow through the existing pipe under Cessnock Road.
- Placed a bridging layer of rock beneath the fill embankment.
- Imported and placed over 16,000 cubic metres of fill for the 120 metre long preload embankment to consolidate the underlying soft soils. The fill is currently about three metres higher than the finished road level.

Settlement monitoring equipment has been installed to monitor the rate of settlement of the fill embankment. Monitoring the rate of settlement is an important part of the construction process.



View of installation of wick drains – December 2020

Next steps

We will continue to monitor the settlement during the next few months. The settlement period will depend on the rate of settlement but it could be up to six months.

When the required settlement is achieved, the preload material will be removed and re-used to build the remainder of the formation along the entire length of the new road.

During the settlement period the project team will continue with environmental and geotechnical monitoring, however there will be no visible construction taking place.

We will continue to keep the community and key stakeholders informed as the project progresses.



Aerial view of imported fill for preload embankment – February 2021

Contact us

For more information on the project or to join our mailing list (email or post), please contact our project team:



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