



Australian Government

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# Cessnock Road upgrade, Testers Hollow

## Project update

November 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 north – October 2021*

### Did you know?

Over 17,000 cubic metres of fill material was used to construct the 120 metre long preload embankment. This preload embankment was required to consolidate the underlying soft soils for the new road.

The consolidation period took six months to complete.

## 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:

- Monitored and surveyed the geotechnical instruments along the preload embankment, analysing the consolidation of the underlying soft soils.
- Constructed utility protection and connection along the northern and southern sections of the project

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



Weekly geotechnical monitoring was completed during the consolidation period

## Next steps

We will restart work on the main alignment from early November, weather permitting. Upcoming work includes:

- Removal of the surcharge material from the preload embankment. This material will be reused on the project to build the new road
- Installation of the three 1500mm diameter permanent drainage culverts
- Installation of utility services, including gas, water and telecommunications
- Landscaping

No work will be carried out between **Friday 24 December 2021** and **Sunday 9 January 2022**.



Aerial view of Testers Hollow Project - October 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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