



Cessnock Road upgrade, Testers Hollow

Project update September 2022



Aerial view of Main Road, looking west – August 2022

The Australian and NSW Governments are jointly funding this \$17 million project to reduce the impact of flooding and improve connectivity.

Transport for NSW has recommenced work on the upgrade of Cessnock Road at Testers Hollow following significant rainfall and flooding in the area.

The project has been impacted by wet weather and as a result minor repairs have been carried out on the new road alignment.

The project involves building a new section of road about 1.5 metres higher than the existing road and is expected to open to traffic by late 2022, with final completion and site demobilisation occurring in early 2023 weather permitting.

When completed, the project will substantially improve the impact of flooding along Cessnock Road at Testers Hollow, from a 1 in 2-year flood event to an up to 1 in 20-year flood event.

Transport contracted Daracon Group to build the upgrade and work started in November 2020.

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 cost
- provide better conditions for on-road cyclists
- improve safety and reduce hazards.

Work in progress

Since the July flood event, the project team have:

- completed minor repairs to the new road alignment
- progressed construction of the embankment
- started landscaping treatments.

Next steps

We are continuing to work on the new road alignment which includes:

- bitumen sealing the embankment and completing asphaltting
- installing safety barriers
- completing landscaping and scour protection work
- installing street lighting.

Upcoming detour

Planning is progressing for the temporary closure of Cessnock Road between Avery Lane and approximately 600 metres north of Avery Lane. Due to recent wet weather, the closure has been delayed until **late 2022**, weather permitting. The closure will be in place for one full weekend from **6.30pm on Friday** to **5.30am on Monday**.

The closure is required to allow us to connect the new road to the existing road. Following the closure, motorists will be able to safely travel on the new higher road.

We will provide you with an update on the closure date, wet weather arrangements and access arrangements once the closure date has been confirmed.

Project design

Transport is now completing the Testers Hollow upgrade in accordance with the current project design.

Transport has met with representatives of both Cessnock and Maitland Councils and will continue to work with local councils to help identify potential future alternative routes for this section of the road network.

Contact us

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

1800 595 220

testershollow@daracon.com.au

transport.nsw.gov.au/testershollow

Translating and Interpreting Service

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 595 220**

