



Transport for NSW

# Sealing the Cobb and Silver City highways

Community update | April 2020

The NSW Government is providing \$145 million to rebuild and seal the remaining sections of both the Cobb and Silver City highways, bringing the total invested since 2011 to \$195 million.

Rebuilding these highways will greatly improve the safety and reliability of routes for trade, tourism and local communities.

In December 2020 the Far West Project Team earned the title of Transport for NSW "Project Team of the Year" for their ongoing achievements and commitment to deliver. We asked some of the team:

## What do you enjoy about working in the Far West?

**Ethan Degoumois, Road Worker:**

I enjoy working out bush with a good crew. Weather can be a challenge, some days it can be 45°C and the next it could be raining.

**Anthony Campbell, Civil Construction Trainee:**

I like working in new places over the Far West and working with the older generation, learning from the stories they tell.

**Tom Smith, Truck Driver:**

I was born and bred in the bush and I know the importance of accessible roads in the outback. I enjoy being part of the team that makes this possible.

**Ben Ragenovich, Safety Environment and Quality Officer:**

I enjoy the isolation the Far West offers. It forces us to adapt and grow the way we work to meet industry standards.

**Tayla Doubtfire, Civil Construction Trainee:**

I like working remotely in a construction environment. I have also become close friends with the person I live with at camp, and she has become my support system.

**Sabrina Trezise, Road Worker:**

Connecting communities gives me a feeling of immense pride. In addition, I would like to be a role model for younger generations, especially females.



## Shannon's Creek cleared for take-off

Transport for NSW, the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and community members came together in July 2019 for a workshop and mock scenario at the Shannon's Creek Emergency Airstrip on the Silver City Highway.

The day focused on site familiarisation as well as an emergency RFDS landing drill, with the help of eleven year old Max Day, a local who needed the services of the RFDS and the airstrip after a motorbike accident.

The all-weather airstrip means that residents living on properties in the area, who previously travelled up to two and a half hours to get to a hospital in an emergency situation, can get help faster – possibly saving their lives.



Workshop attendees gather on the Shannon's Creek Emergency Airstrip

## Snapshot: where are we up to?

### Completed since July 2019:

Cobb Highway	Silver City
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gypsum Mine North (5.5km)</li> <li>Tasman Road (6km)</li> <li>Slamannon South (3.1km)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peak Hill Central (3.4km)</li> <li>Shannons Creek North stage 1 (3km)</li> <li>One Tree (7.3km)</li> <li>Salt lake (4.6km)</li> </ul>

### In construction:

Cobb Highway	Silver City
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yelta (6.4km)</li> <li>Eurella South (6.4km)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coally South (5.2km)</li> <li>Shannons Creek North Stage 2 (3.7km) and Cobham Lake (1.7km)</li> </ul>

## Collaborating on the Cobb

Transport for NSW has partnered with Central Darling Shire Council to deliver a reliable and connected Cobb Highway.

To date, Central Darling Shire Council has assisted with sourcing rock, crushing gravel, drilling bores, installing tanks and relocating fence lines. All of which have significantly contributed to the overall project success.

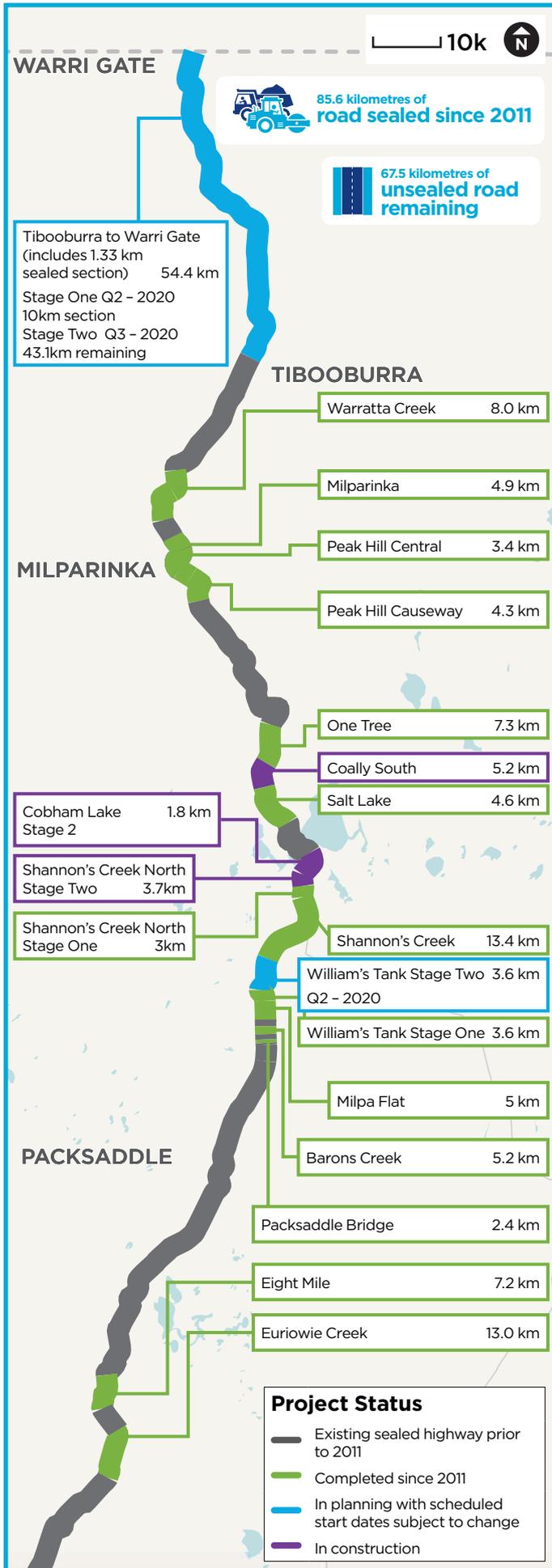
In addition, Council has effectively delivered sealing works on Menindee Road North (2km), Gypsum Mine north (5.5km) and Slamannon South (3.1km), with Yelta (6.4km) in construction.

The extent of activities achieved to date demonstrates the effectiveness of partnering with local communities such as Central Darling Shire Council to deliver local projects.

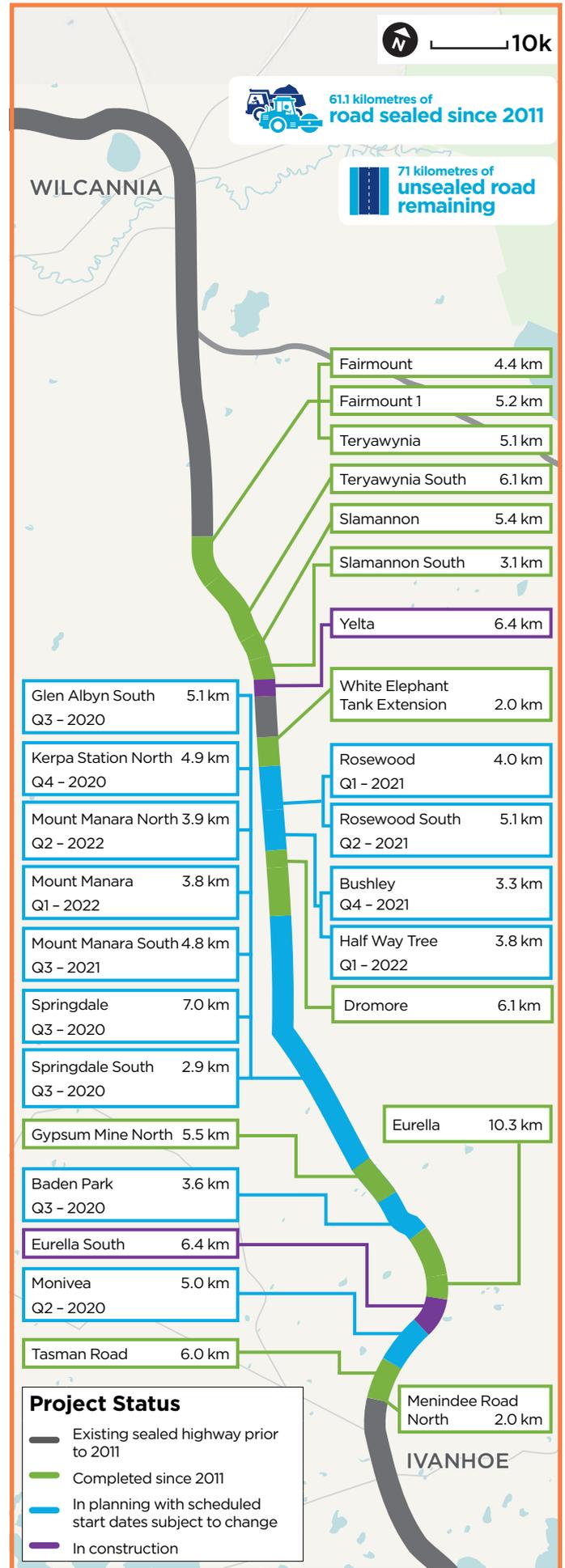


Cobb Highway sealing work

# Silver City Highway initial seal program as at March 2020



# Cobb Highway initial seal program as at March 2020



## Where are the materials for the roads sourced?

As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability, materials used throughout the project length are sourced from a combination of pre-existing road material and on-site crushing of locally sourced rock. Working with local landholders to source rocks appropriate for on-site crushing has seen a dramatic reduction in transport related costs and delays. This out of the box thinking has also seen works progress ahead of schedule with less wastage and a high quality finish.



Rock crushing at Peak Hill Central on the Silver City Highway

## Project Team of the Year

The Transport for NSW District Works Far West team has taken out the highly coveted Transport for NSW Project Team of the Year award for their work on transforming the Cobb and Silver City highways.

Having sealed 61.5 of the remaining unsealed kilometres in the past 12 months, the team forecasts project delivery six months ahead of schedule.

Braving extreme heat, dust and remote locations, the team has received this accolade for their ongoing commitment and drive, which has often included living on-site, away from family and friends.



**More reliable**  
access to schools  
and medical services



**Connecting regional**  
communities



**Improved connectivity**  
for the freight and  
livestock industry



Pictured are (l-r): Dean Gilby, Brian Linnett, Kevin Bath, Neville Monaghan and Craig Matthews

## Contact us

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