



Transport for NSW

# Sealing the Cobb and Silver City highways

Community update | November 2021



Sealing section 4 of Tibooburra to Warri Gate on the Silver City Highway

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.

## Project status

The Cobb and Silver City Highways are key routes connecting our far west communities between Victoria and the Queensland Border.

Since starting the initial seal project in 2011, over 119.4 kilometres has been sealed on the Silver City Highway with 33.3 kilometres left to be sealed by December 2022.

On the Cobb Highway, 106.4 kilometres has been sealed since 2011 with 25.3 kilometres to be sealed by June 2023, which includes the realignment at Mount Manara.



**Smoother and safer road surfaces**



**Silver City**  
**33.3 kilometres of unsealed road remaining**



**Cobb Highway**  
**25.3 kilometres of unsealed road remaining**

## Sealing Tibooburra to Warri Gate

Work is progressing with just 33.3 kilometres of unsealed road remaining on the Silver City Highway between Tibooburra and Warri Gate.

Section 4 of Tibooburra to Warri Gate was sealed in early November and construction is now being carried out on Section 3, which is 12.8 kilometres.

Section 1 and 2 are now in the final design phase. These final sections will be completed by December 2022.



Sealing Section 4 of Tibooburra to Warri Gate, which was 9.8 kilometres



**Connecting regional communities**



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



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

## Electronic road signs for Cobb and Silver City Highways

The Cobb and Silver City Highways are now home to automated, electronic road signs designed to improve safety and better inform motorists about road conditions.

The nine electronic signs have now been installed on the Cobb Highway between Hay and Wilcannia and the Silver City Highway between Broken Hill and the Queensland border.

Up until these signs were installed, the previous signs were changed manually to indicate if the highways are open or closed during a flooding event.

The \$750,000 sign upgrade will provide motorists with updates in real time, helping them to make quick decisions to avoid potentially hazardous conditions.



One of the new electronic road signs on the Cobb Highway

## Mount Manara South Initial Seal Project complete

Mount Manara South initial seal started at the end of April and after a wet winter and disruptions due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Transport Broken Hill crew successfully completed the project with the initial seal on 28 September 2021.

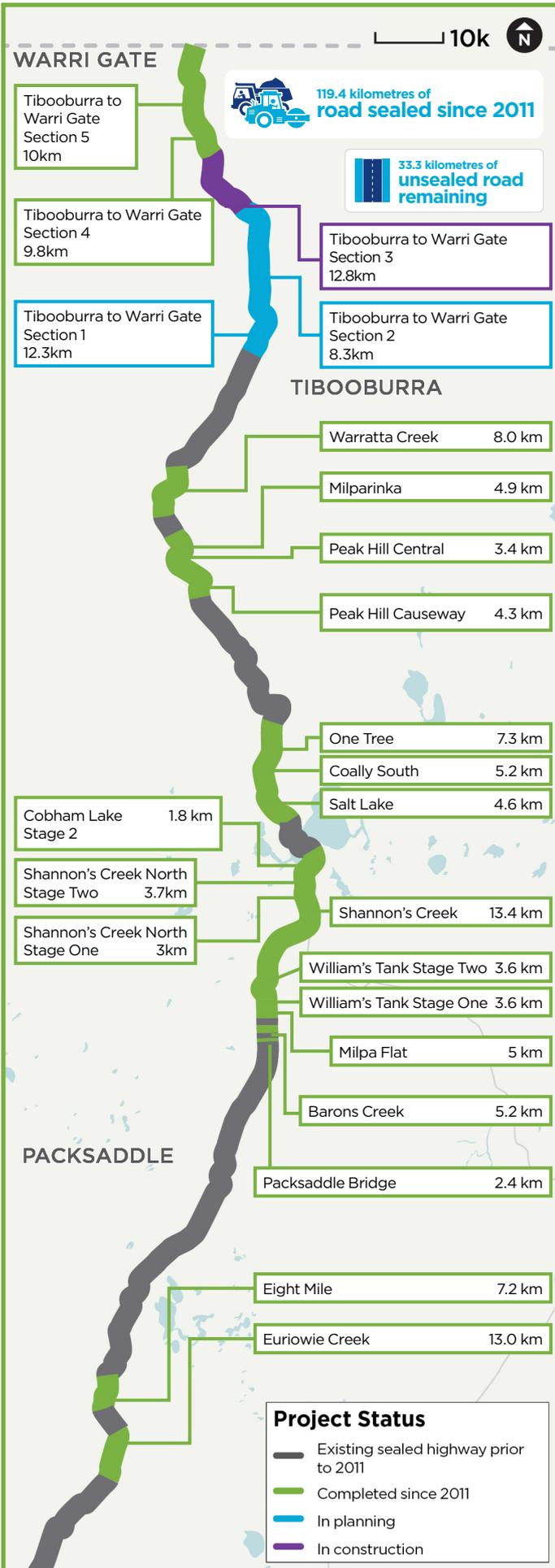
The work involved the construction of sealing the existing road by building, shaping and compacting the sub-base, carting, spreading and compacting road-base, drainage improvements, initial spray seal, and linemarking and installing signs and guideposts.

The crew has been living away from home during the work week at a camp located 50 kilometres north of Ivanhoe. They have made homely touches to their camp with a veggie patch and a bush golf course.

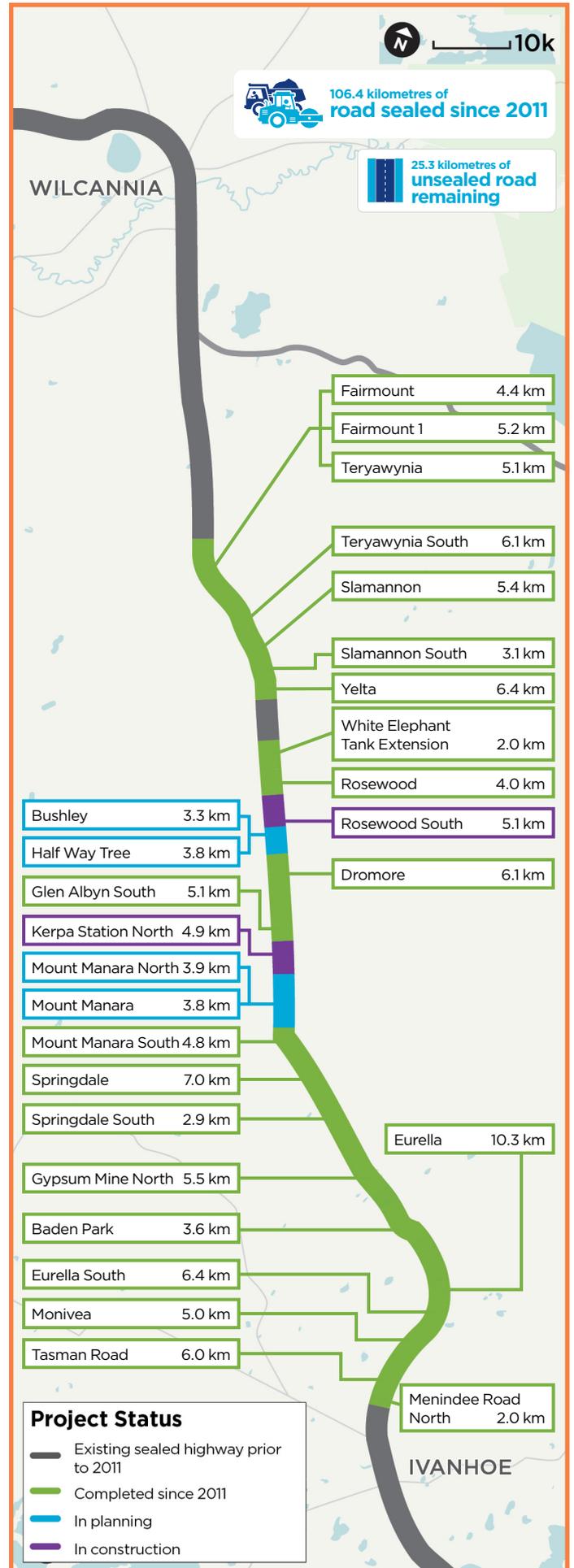


Adam Fettel from Transport takes his putt at the bush golf course

## Silver City Highway initial seal program as at November 2021



## Cobb Highway initial seal program as at November 2021



## Project team spotlight

Meet Kevin Bath, one of the Works Supervisors working on the project



### Q. How long have you worked on the Cobb and Silver City project?

A. I have worked as a Truck Driver, Team Leader and then supervised most of the initial sealing of the Silver City Highway from Broken Hill to Tibooburra for over 26 years.

I have also supervised some 35 kilometres of the initial sealing of the Cobb Highway between Wilcannia and Ivanhoe. Maintaining the sealed network in the Far West is another priority which I supervise in between our projects.

### Q. How important is it to you to have both highways fully sealed?

A. The sealing of the Silver City Highway and the Cobb Highway to me means that tourists numbers to the outback will multiply, and making most of the outback accessible for small 2WD cars, not forgetting the movement of freight with less repairs to their vehicles and better response times for emergency vehicles to get to incidents.

### Q. Can you tell us about your most memorable experience while working in the Far West on these projects?

A. The most memorable project I have been involved with and seen completed was supervising and constructing the emergency landing strip for the Royal Flying Doctor Service at Shannons Creek on the Silver City Highway, with all the staff at Packsaddle calling it 'Bathys strip'.

I really love working alongside my teams and would not trade that for anything.



A great photo taken by Kevin Bath on the Silver City Highway

## Mount Manara Realignment and Initial Seal Project

The Cobb Highway will be realigned at Mount Manara to create a straighter road for safer journeys. We are continuing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage consultations and investigations for the project.

A site survey was carried out on 10 and 11 August with seven Aboriginal site officers in attendance. The first morning started with a meet and greet around a campfire followed by a survey of the entire road corridor over the two days. The engagement with site officers and conversations around the project were very positive. The Aboriginal Stakeholder Cultural Survey Reports have been received and the draft Archaeological Survey Report and proposed Archaeological Methodology has been distributed to Registered Aboriginal Parties for initial feedback. An Aboriginal Focus Group meeting was also held during the response period with feedback closing on 29 October. The final draft of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report will be completed in early 2022.



Site survey taking place along the Mount Manara realignment in August 2021

## Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Cobb and Silver City project please contact the project team on:

 1800 167 499

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 [nswroads.work/farwestseals](https://nswroads.work/farwestseals)

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