



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Ellerton Drive extension

Community update

July 2018



Artists' impression of the new bridge across the Queanbeyan River

The Australian and NSW governments, together with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, are funding the \$86 million Ellerton Drive extension project.

The 4.6km new road provides an alternative route around the Queanbeyan CBD to the new southern population growth areas. The work is progressing well with 25 per cent of the earthworks and 95 per cent of the ground clearing for the new road complete. The new road is expected to be completed in mid-2020, weather permitting.

Bridge construction

The construction of the bridge over the Queanbeyan River has now started. During the first few months of construction bridge work will involve preparation for piling and bridge staging construction.

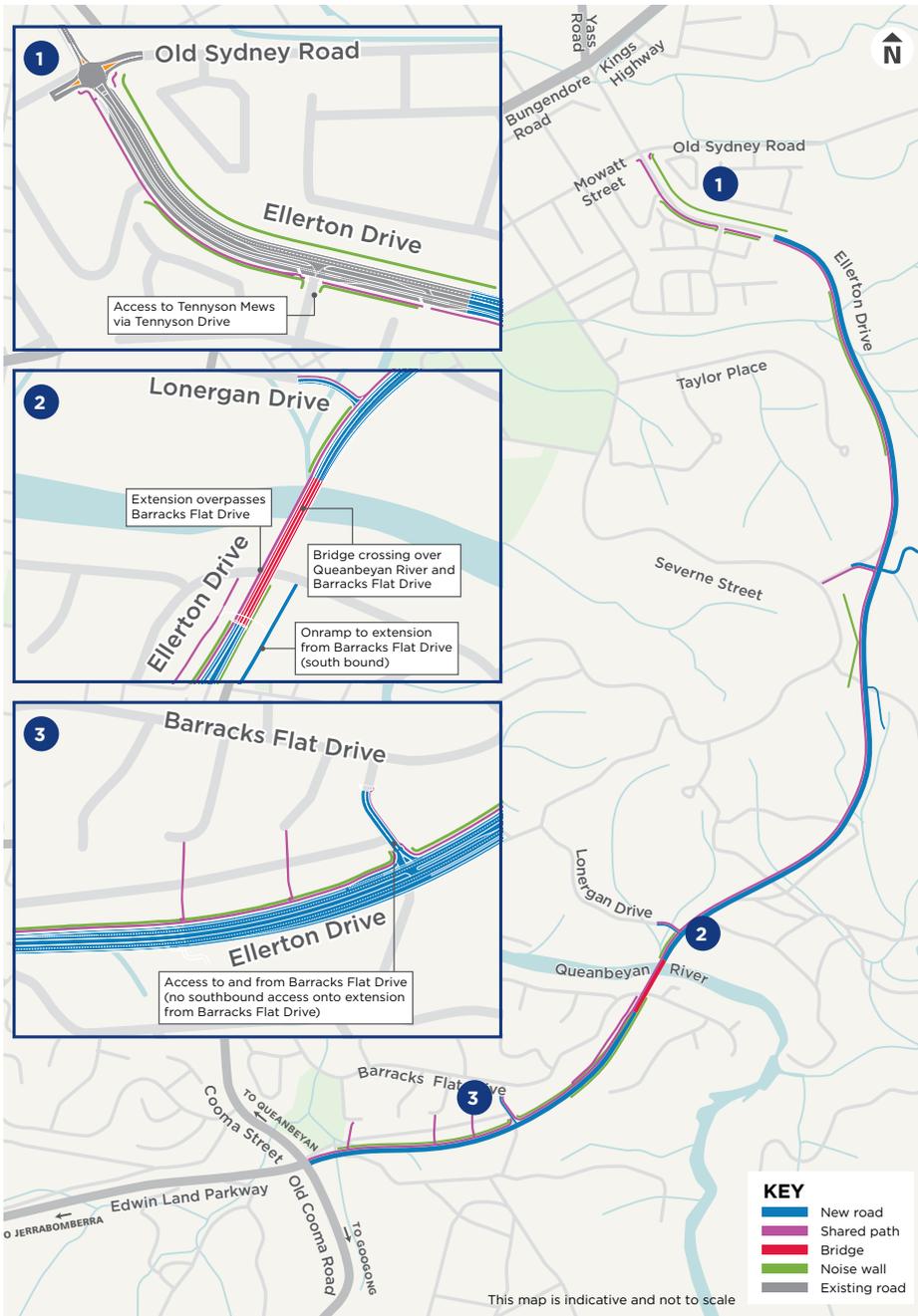
The bridge is expected to be completed and opened to vehicles at the same time as the completed Ellerton Drive extension.

New bridge design

Changes have been made to the design of the bridge. The changes allow the construction of the bridge to be launched incrementally from one side of the river and will reduce impact on the environment and nearby residents during construction. The construction sequence will involve progressively launching completed bridge segments from the north to the south side of the river.

Benefits of the new design include:

- **Improved environmental impact** by reducing work within sensitive waterways
- **Reduced impact** on the local platypus population particularly associated with breeding
- **Safer construction** techniques, reducing risks for workers being at heights, and reliance on crane lifts.
- **Reduced traffic disruption** on Barracks Flat Drive during construction.



Ellerton Drive extension map

What's been happening?

Since construction started in November 2017 the project team has:

- Established a site office at the intersection of Old Cooma Road and Edwin Land Parkway
- Installed signage and fencing to clearly identify construction exclusion areas for the community's safety
- Modified traffic conditions on the existing Ellerton Drive including a safe u-turn area
- Commenced earthworks in the main project area
- Cleared trees and shrubs with efforts made to maintain existing plants where possible
- Relocated utility services through the northern section of the project
- Monitored dust, noise and vibration at key locations across the project
- Identified electrical or underground power and gas services that require relocation on existing Ellerton Drive for upcoming noise wall installation
- Implemented traffic control changes to Barracks Flat Drive.

What's next?

Work over the coming months includes:

- Continuation of earthworks throughout the project area
- Installation of stormwater culverts and drains
- Construction of fauna fencing and fauna crossings
- Construction of the new bridge
- Construction of noise walls and utility service relocations next to the existing Ellerton Drive in Queanbeyan East.

Noise wall construction

Noise walls will be constructed to reduce the impact of road traffic noise to residents once the Ellerton Drive extension is complete.

Construction of the noise walls will begin along the existing Ellerton Drive in the coming months.

Noise walls along the new road will be installed following the completion of substantial earthworks as the walls will be constructed on the final ground level.

We will continue to engage with those residents directly impacted by the construction of the noise walls.



How we are minimising environmental impacts

Careful attention is being paid to the local environment.

Environmental considerations include:

- Protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites
- Protecting wildlife corridors
- An environmental assessment has been carried out of potential native animal habitats
- Removal of termite mounds using methods that minimise impacts on the local Rosenberg's Goanna population
- Monitoring of protected plant species
- Removal of weeds such as blackberries
- Consideration of bushfire risks
- Platypus protection measures
- Ongoing dust, noise and vibration management.

Reduced tree clearing

Careful planning has been undertaken to minimise tree clearing. Amended road designs have resulted in a 26 per cent reduction in tree clearance from what was originally planned.

Goanna breeding

We have implemented successful strategies to reduce the impact to the endangered Rosenberg Goanna.

During their breeding season, the Goannas lay their eggs within termite mounds, allowing it's young to feed on termites after they hatch. Environmental checks, including the use of motion sensing cameras were used to ensure that Goannas weren't using the termite mounds within the project area prior to their removal.



Protecting platypus in the Queanbeyan River

Platypus breeding

The Australian Platypus Conservancy recently visited the Ellerton Drive extension site to inspect the habitat of platypus within the Queanbeyan River.

Permanent protection will be implemented along the river bank and around bridge piers. This will involve careful placement of large rocks to ensure that the platypus breed in a safe place. This protection work is scheduled to occur outside of the September to March 2019 platypus breeding season to prevent disruption to platypus breeding activity.

Australian Platypus Conservancy representatives believe that the changes to the bridge design and mitigation strategies developed for this project will further minimise impacts to the local platypus population.

Noise, dust and vibration mitigation measures

Noise, dust and vibration levels are being monitored throughout the project in line with Environmental Protection Licence requirements.

Steps are being taken to minimise the impacts such as break periods for noise and vibration work where required, and spraying water over exposed earth work areas to reduce dust.

If you have any concerns regarding noise, dust and vibration during construction please contact us on:



1800 116 337



ellertondrive@wbho.com.au



rms.nsw.gov.au/ede



240 Old Cooma Road
Karabar NSW 2620



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Fauna underpass construction and earthworks at Greenleigh

Come and chat to the team

Roads and Maritime Services will be hosting two community information drop in sessions. These sessions are a great opportunity for residents and community members to discuss the Ellerton Drive extension with the project team.

Two drop in sessions will be held on:

Thursday 26 July 2018

Riverside Plaza, 4pm – 7pm

Saturday 28 July 2018

Karabar Shopping Mall, 9am – 12noon

Register for updates

To register your details for project updates, email ellertondrive@wbho.com.au



Dust mitigation

Contact us

For construction related matters, contact WBHO on:

 1800 116 337

 ellertondrive@wbho.com.au

 rms.nsw.gov.au/ede

 240 Old Cooma Road
Karabar NSW 2620

If you have any questions about the project that are not related to construction, contact QPRC on:

 1800 316 644

 ede.enquiries@qprc.nsw.gov.au

 [qprc.nsw.gov.au/Major-Works-Projects/
Ellerton-Drive-Extension](http://qprc.nsw.gov.au/Major-Works-Projects/Ellerton-Drive-Extension)



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