



Transport for NSW

# Great Western Highway upgrade Kelso to Raglan

Community update | October 2021



An artist impression of the completed upgrade westbound from Napoleon Street

Work is progressing to duplicate a 3.6km section of the Great Western Highway between Kelso and Raglan.

Since the commencement of construction in January the project is now starting to take shape with earthworks and ground stabilisation in front of the Bathurst Regional Airport complete and earthworks in front of the BP underway. With around 25 people working on the project each day, next steps include stormwater, kerb and pavement works and the start of intersection works at PJ Moodie Memorial Drive.

## Work completed to date

- ✓ Site establishment and fencing of work area
- ✓ Relocation of Telstra utilities
- ✓ Noise and building condition assessments
- ✓ Construction of detention basin
- ✓ Vegetation removal on northern side of the highway

## Kelso to Raglan upgrade map



### Partnering with Bathurst Regional Council to benefit birds

Transport for NSW have partnered with Bathurst Regional Council to transfer over 16,000 tonnes of excavated natural material removed from the project site to the former Bathurst Brick Pit quarry site which has been transformed into a wetlands habitat for birds.

With more than 80 species of birds identified at this location, the state government is also contributing \$100,000 from the NSW Environmental Trust under the Restoration and Rehabilitation Program to restore this site for both the local bird population and the local community. Excavators have started their clean-up of the area which will allow the natural habitat to thrive. Stage 1 is expected to be completed in early 2023.

Mayor of Bathurst, Ian North said he is excited to be working with Transport for NSW on this worthwhile community project.

"I am thrilled to see this previously unused site transformed into a thriving oasis for local bird populations, it's a huge win for our community."



Over 16,000 tonnes of topsoil has been transferred to the former Bathurst Brick Pit wetlands.



Earthworks at Raglan, looking west towards Bathurst.

### Partnering with local experts on landscaping plans

The future treescape to replace the iconic avenue of poplars at the eastern entry to Bathurst has been visualised in an artist's impression (pictured page 1) following consultation with Bathurst Regional Council and Greening Bathurst.

The first of two stages of vegetation removal was carried out in March to allow the highway to be duplicated. A new avenue of trees selected for future resilience will be strategically planted at the end of the project to improve road safety and reduce the likelihood of disruptions to the highway from fallen limbs or older trees blowing over.

Greening Bathurst Secretary Hugh Gould said while it would be difficult to see the remainder of the poplar trees removed to make way for the widened road, it was all for a greater good.

"In order for Bathurst to get what it needs for the traffic to go up the hill without any major hold ups, the avenue of trees needs to go.

"The Bathurst plains are not the best to grow trees like poplars - they are already under a lot of stress and are looking patchy. Some have already been removed by aborists in recent years as they are getting old."

Mr Gould said the transition from the existing tree lined avenue to the future plantings could not happen soon enough.

"They say the best trees you can plant are the ones you planted 20 years ago."

Native trees will also be planted along the boundary to Bathurst, in combination with a welcome sign. Shade trees and park trees will also be planted along the Great Western Highway at Elmo Lavis Park to improve the amenity for park users and along the new cycleway.

Planting is likely to commence at the conclusion of the project, in 2023, and the trees will be provided with irrigation, care and monitoring for 12 months.

### Local road maintenance

You may have noticed our crews lately on the Great Western Highway near Raglan, Glanmire and other locations in the Central West. Unfortunately the repeated rain and snowfall this winter resulted in widespread damage to our road network. Along with the pandemic, progress has understandably been slowed on the Raglan project however work on site has continued under COVID safe measures. This essential maintenance work carried out in August and September will ensure a smoother, safer journey for all road users. TfNSW thanks the community for their patience will this emergency repair work is completed.

## Project team spotlight

Meet Luke, Senior Project Engineer

### What is your involvement with the project?

I look after the longer term planning for the project, including procurement, finances, quality and milestones.



### What does a normal day on site look like for you (COVID restrictions permitting)?

Generally meetings and reporting on project progress. This can vary from updating the project timeline and forecasting expenditure to setting up and managing contracts. Occasionally I get to have a look around site to check on the construction progress.

### What is your favourite part of job?

Problem solving. Although I'd love everything to go to plan, it's very rewarding finding solutions to obstacles that constantly pop up.

### What is your favourite thing about Bathurst?

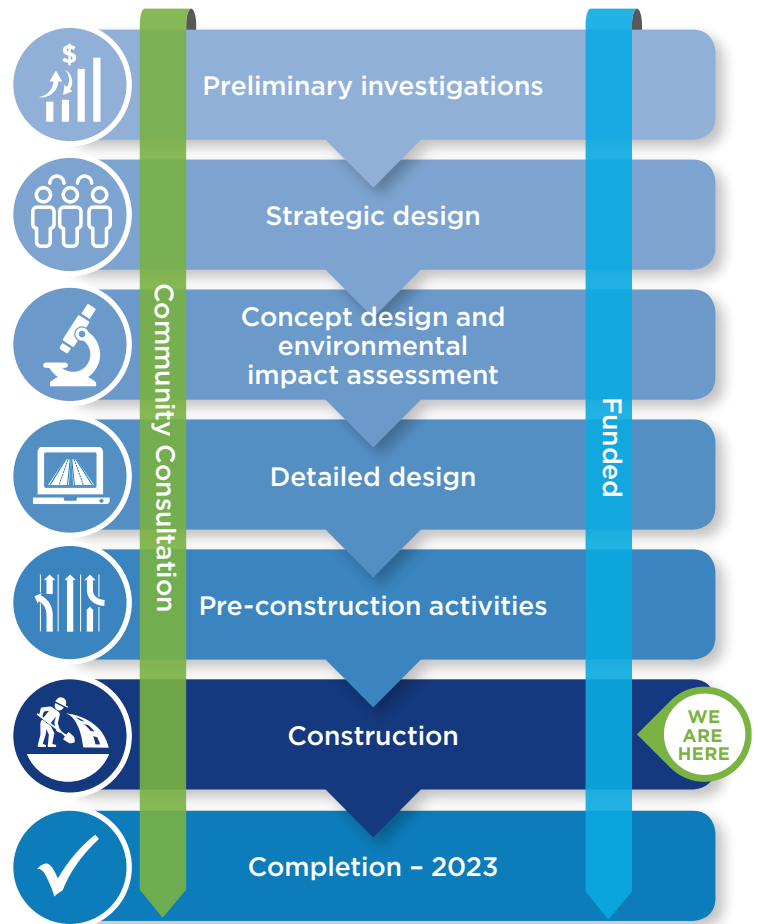
I travel across from Orange each day, and I love the view coming down the rocks in the morning, particularly when there is some fog across the city. I also love the green space around the river between the highway and Hereford Street, it's a beautiful spot for a run or walk.

## Noise and building assessments

TfNSW is encouraging property owners to proceed with building condition assessments, for those nearby the project sites at Raglan. This is a precautionary measure, and the assessments will be carried out by local contractors Calare Civil. If you have received a letter regarding this, please call us to arrange the assessment at a time that is suitable for you.

TfNSW views road traffic noise as an important environmental issue and has carried out assessments for eligible properties. Where required, properties may receive treatment to their property to mitigate noise and other project impacts. We are currently finalising contractors to carry out these works. Progress will be communicated with residents as information becomes available.

## What happens next?



## We're here for you

We will continue to liaise with stakeholders and the community during the construction of the project.

You can subscribe to email updates to stay informed about work on the project

To register your details or chat about the project, contact the project team on:

1800 953 777

[kelsotoraglan@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kelsotoraglan@transport.nsw.gov.au)

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



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