

Great Western Highway upgrade – Kelso to Raglan



Landscaping taking place along the northern side of the Great Western Highway at Raglan.

The landscape plan for the Eastern entrance to Bathurst starts to come to life

The first stage of landscaping has started, with 50 trees being planted on the northern side of the Great Western Highway at Raglan in May. Pin oaks (*quercus palustris*) are set to replace the avenue of lombardy poplars as a welcome into Bathurst when travelling west from Lithgow. The deciduous pin oaks have been specifically grown for this project and will provide brilliant red-orange foliage in the autumn months. These trees will grow to be up to 20m high, and are considered to be very hardy once established.

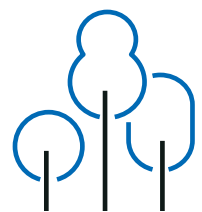
To accommodate the highway widening, it was necessary to remove the avenue of lombardy poplar trees. As well as the pin oaks, there will be several other species planted next year that will fit in with the existing residential landscape around Raglan. These include:

- Red-spotted gums (*eucalyptus mannifera*)
- Red oaks (*quercus rubra*)
- Cimmarron ash (*fraxinus pennsylvanica 'cimmzam'*)

Transport for NSW has consulted with Greening Bathurst and Bathurst Regional Council, as well as community members to ensure the new trees are suited to the area and will last for years to come. The remainder of the trees will be planted in 2023, once the highway construction has finished. Transport will be responsible for their irrigation, care and monitoring for 12 months, after which the care will be the responsibility of Bathurst Regional Council.

To view the artist impression of the landscape plan once the trees are fully grown, visit nswroads.work/kelsotoraglan.

More trees will be planted on the southern side of the highway in 2023





Active transport supported

A 2.7km shared walking path/cycleway will benefit the Bathurst community, connecting Raglan residents who wish to walk or ride into Bathurst. The path will start on the southern side of the highway near Eugenie Street, and then cross over to the northern side approximately 300m west of Napoleon Street. Lighting and pedestrian refuges will be constructed for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

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Artist impression of landscaping looking west from Raglan.

Project team spotlight



Meet Jason, Landscape Asset Advisor

What is your involvement with the project?

I provide technical advice to the project team and contractors on the landscape components of the project, which also includes inspecting tree stock in the nursery for compliance with Australian Standards, and carrying out hold point inspections relating to landscaping and tree planting.

What is your favourite part of job?

I love being involved with regional projects and travelling out for site inspections and meeting the teams. I also get to see many different landscape types from dense forest to open rolling hills to agricultural pastures.

What are you most looking forward to with this project?

Seeing all the pin oak plantings completed, as they mature they are going to create an amazing avenue of trees leading into town.

What is your favourite plant and why?

That's a tough question, as there are so many different plant categories but if I really had to narrow it to a single plant it would have be one of the native ground orchids, nodding greenhood (*pterostylis nutans*).

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2022 project progress

Despite the very wet weather over the past few months, work continues to progress on the Kelso to Raglan upgrade. The team has been busy installing temporary safety barriers, relocating water mains, power poles, power lines and street lights. The first stage of tree planting has also been completed.

The coming months will be busy as work continues on earthworks and asphaltting between Napoleon Street and Ceramic Avenue. Further watermain relocation and stormwater drainage work will also continue, as well as the final stage of removing lombardy poplars.

Utility work update

We've completed the relocation of gas infrastructure throughout the project. Gas mains were lowered at Ceramic Avenue and Nelson Street to allow for construction of stormwater drainage, while the entire gas main near Bathurst Sheds has been relocated to the northern edge of the road corridor, allowing for the realignment of the highway.



Drainage pipe extension work at Raglan, looking east.

Since the project started, 32% of available working days have been lost due to wet weather

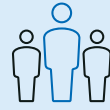


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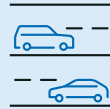
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Improving freight productivity



Connecting communities



Easing congestion



Improving safety

Traffic changes

For the safety of workers and motorists, temporary lane closures and traffic control will be in place from time to time on the Great Western Highway which may affect travel times. Please keep to the speed limits and follow the direction of traffic controllers and signs. For the latest traffic updates,

- Call **132 701**
- Visit livetraffic.com
- Download the Live Traffic NSW App

Contact us

For more information or to contact the project team:



1800 953 777



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nswroads.work/kelsotoraglan



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