

NEWCASTLE INNER CITY BYPASS: RANKIN PARK TO JESMOND
ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE MONTHLY REPORT

April 2021

Reporting Period: 1 to 30 April 2021

PROJECT SUMMARY: Delivery of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass (NICB) Rankin Park to Jesmond (RP2J) project has been broken into four stages:

Stage 1: Detailed design investigations and low impact works – in progress.

Stage 2: Shared Path Bridge – Complete March 2021

Stage 3: Southern Utilities relocation works – pre-work planning

Stage 4: Main RP2J road construction – detailed design.

Works underway:

- Stage 1: Non-Aboriginal Heritage Shanty Town and Tramway Heritage Excavation and Salvage, and Lookout Road house demolition (New Lambton Heights).
- Stage 2: Complete March 2021
- Stage 3: No work in April
- Stage 4: No work in April

April 2021 Completed Works:

Shared Path Bridge

- Completed March 2021.

Aboriginal Salvage Works

- Completed.

House Demolition - Lookout Road

- Demolition and removal of the houses along Lookout Road continued. These works will facilitate the southern interchange utilities relocation work (Stage 3). Work to the end of April included the demolition of nine primarily brick dwellings, outbuildings (e.g.: garages and sheds) and some retaining wall structures, and the removal of landscape vegetation.



Non-Aboriginal Heritage Shanty Town and Tramway Heritage Excavation and Salvage

- Investigation and salvage of the Wallsend/Plattsburg Tramway historic sites. A series of trench pits were excavated within four general areas of the shanty town. One of the areas was subject to recent disturbance so was abandoned. Evidence of structural remains including brick work, post holes, sealed surfaces (IMG 1391) were found at the other three areas. Other items found include pieces of metal, glass and ceramics, marbles, the top of a pen, a few intact bottles/jars and a yoyo. They also found the pipe work that supplied water to the shanty town. That was important as the water source provides a good reference point, as many oral history references are made in relation to the tap.

May 2021 Upcoming Works:

House Demolition - Lookout Road

- Remaining works are targeted to be completed by the end of the month. A large amount of unexpected asbestos containing materials (ACM) has been discovered around the remaining structures and within the soils requiring removal from site. The area will then be shaped for use as a compound for the Southern Utilities relocation works, with permanent fencing installed.

Non-Aboriginal Heritage Shanty Town and Tramway Heritage Excavation and Salvage

- On hold and incomplete. Recommencement expected later in 2021.

ER Activity:

Reviews/Approvals/Advice

- Non-Aboriginal Heritage Investigation – Minor Construction Ancillary Facility: review and approve
- Updated VMP – Lookout Road house demolition: review and comment
- Environmental Incident Report Unexpected Find – Asbestos: Non-Aboriginal Heritage Investigation: review

Inspections

- A site inspection of the house demolition area was held on 13th April 2021 with the ER, DPIE, EPA, TfNSW and Delta Group.
- A Joint ER/TfNSW inspection report was issued to TfNSW and Delta Group.



Environmental Group Meetings / Site Meetings

- A monthly project meeting was held on 13th April with TfNSW, EPA, DPIE and the ER
- ERGs are not being held for low impact works; however, inspections and project briefing meetings will be undertaken monthly.

Audits

- There were no ER audits held in April.

Stop Work Notices

- There were no Stop Work Notices in April.

Incidents

- There was one incident (unexpected find) in April as per the Transport for NSW environmental incident classification and reporting procedure.

Tuesday 20th April 2021 - Asbestos Find

Asbestos cement sheeting fragments were found in a Test Trench during archaeological investigations at the former shanty town 'Hollywood'. The location of the unexpected find is approximately 100m to the nearest sensitive receiver and 190m to the nearest waterway. Work stopped in the immediate area and asbestos was covered with plastic. Licensed contractor Hazmat Services consultant removed the Asbestos and HAZMAT completed the visual clearance inspection and provided a clearance certificate. Works did not recommence in the area until the clearance certificate was obtained. Caution was exercised during archaeological investigation across the site, in particular where former houses from the 1930s to 1960 would have been located. Personnel on site received ongoing toolbox training highlighting the risks and necessary controls to be implemented. No more asbestos was found during the investigation works.

CEMP, CEMPP & Minister's Conditions of Approval

Reports

- MCoA A26(k): Environmental Representative Monthly Report (March 2021) – Prepared, reviewed and uploaded (DPIE Portal): 13th April 2021.

Monitoring

- No monitoring is required for the Stages 1, 2 or 3.



Community Consultation and Complaints

- A lot of effort has been put into community engagement for the Non-Aboriginal heritage works with a number of people with a connection to the site visiting during the investigation program. See summary of work above. This included resident number of past residents and their descendants. TfNSW also arranged for the curator of the Newcastle Museum to visit the site. All feedback from the community has been positive however the archaeologist has indicated that some of the oral history is conflicting, particularly surrounding how difficult life was living in this precinct.
- A complaint was received regarding graffiti and water pooling on the share path bridge. Graffiti is reported as required to maintenance teams and minor pooling monitored.

Project Positives

- Some tree timber from the demolition work was donated and delivered to a local woodturning group for their use and a local public school for use on a nature play area,



Simon Williams
NICB RP2J Environmental Representative
Director
GeoLINK



Site Images – Stage 1: Lookout Road house demolition



Image 1: Lookout Road house demolition



Image 2: Lookout Road house demolition



Image 3: Lookout Road house demolition



Image 4: Lookout Road house demolition



Image 5: Non-Aboriginal heritage salvage



Image 6: Non-Aboriginal heritage salvage

