

NEWCASTLE INNER CITY BYPASS: RANKIN PARK TO JESMOND
ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE MONTHLY REPORT
March 2021

Reporting Period: 1 to 31 March 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: Share Path Bridge – construction complete

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

Stage 4: Main RP2J road construction – detailed design.

Works underway:

- Stage 1: Aboriginal Salvage Works (Lambton) and Lookout Road house demolition (New Lambton Heights).
- Stage 2: Daracon completed finishing works on Bridge 7 - Shared Path Bridge.
- Stage 3: No work in March
- Stage 4: No work in March

March 2021 Completed Works:

Shared Path Bridge

- Repairing and closing out defect works
- Landscape maintenance and repairs following substantial rain event.

Aboriginal Salvage Works

- Salvage works for Aboriginal heritage (~600m south of Jesmond Park)

House Demolition - Lookout Road

- Demolition and removal of the houses along Lookout Road commenced. These works will facilitate the utilities work (Stage 3)



April 2021 Upcoming Works:

Shared Path Bridge

- Completed.

Aboriginal Salvage Works

- Completed.

House Demolition - Lookout Road

- Demolition and removal of the houses along Lookout Road to facilitate the utilities work (Stage 3)

Non Aboriginal Heritage Shanty Town and Tramway Heritage Excavation and Salvage

- Investigation and salvage of the Wallsend/Plattsburg Tramway historic sites to commence on the 12 April 2021.

ER Activity:

Reviews/Approvals/Advice

- EWMS – Lookout Road House Demolition – Information and signing
- Operational Noise Mitigation Review (MCoA E38) – review and comment
- Lookout Road House Demolition (Low Impact Works) VMP amendments – review
- Two (x2) Environmental Incident Reports; Lookout Road house demolition Unexpected Find: Asbestos - review
- Environmental Incident Report; Lookout Road house demolition: Over Criteria Rain Event – review
- Environmental Incident Report; Shared Path Bridge: Over Criterion Rain Event - review

Inspections

- A site inspection was held on 2nd March 2021 with the ER, TfNSW and Daracon.
- A Joint ER/TfNSW inspection report was issued to TfNSW and Daracon.

Environmental Group Meetings / Site Meetings

- A monthly project meeting was held on 2nd March with TfNSW, DPIE and the ER
- ERGs are not being held for the Shared Path Bridge or low impact works; however, inspections and project briefing meetings will be undertaken monthly.



Audits

- There were no ER audits held in March.

Stop Work Notices

- There were no Stop Work Notices in March.

Incidents

- There were four incidents in March which were reported in Transport for NSW environmental incident classification and reporting procedure as reportable events.

Lookout Road House Demolition - Unexpected Asbestos Find – 9 March 2021

Suspect materials (presumed to be asbestos cement sheeting) was identified beneath existing retaining walls and surrounding soils at the rear of properties 102-104 Lookout Road on the 9th and 10th March 2021 during demolition work. The location of the unexpected find was approximately 110m to the nearest sensitive receiver and 50m from the nearest stormwater drain. Immediate areas were secured and demarcated with hazardous tape, affected areas dampened with water/mist and stockpiles covered with 200um plastic. A Hazmat Services consultant was notified to collect samples to confirm if materials contained asbestos (ACM). A full-time asbestos removalist was to be present onsite to undertake removal of any unexpected finds when encountered during demolition activities.

Lookout Road House Demolition - Unexpected Asbestos Find – 10 March 2021

Asbestos cement sheeting, vinyl tiles, infill panels, packers were positively identified within the kitchen locations, piers, bathrooms of 100,108,110 Lookout Road on the 10th and 11th March 2021 during the demolition work (Post Asbestos Removal works from original reports). The location of the unexpected find was approximately 65m to nearest sensitive receiver and 25m to the nearest storm water drain. Immediate areas were secured and demarcated with hazardous tape and affected areas were dampened with water/mist. A Hazmat Services consultant was notified to collect samples to confirm if materials contained asbestos (ACM). Hazmat Services also undertook further invasive testing and investigations of the properties. A full-time asbestos removalist was to be present onsite to undertake removal of any unexpected finds when encountered during demolition activities.

Shared Path Bridge - Rain Event (over criteria) – 19 March 2021

During a significant rainfall event a newly constructed batter has slipped, resulting in soil being deposited on Newcastle Road. The batter had been completed and landscaped in accordance with the relevant design requirements. The slip occurred at the Newcastle Road (East Bound) shoulder, adjacent to the Coles Street and Hill Street intersection. Deposited soils were removed from Newcastle Road and replaced onto the batter as soon as possible. An asphalt clean water diversion bund up slope of the batter and filter controls to divert water away from the affected area were installed. Additionally, filter controls were installed within the kerb down slope of the area. The batter was re-instated and landscaped in accordance with the design (and/or install additional controls as directed by TfNSW). It is planned to maintain the asphalt bund and filter controls up slope of the batter to provide clean water diversion around the area.



Further, on Friday 19 March 2021, Transport for NSW received email correspondence from the NSW Environment Protection Authority, advising that the organisation had received a complaint from a member of the public. The complaint related to a small landscaped batter within the completed Rankin Park to Jesmond Shared Path Bridge section of the project that had slumped. It was observed by Transport for NSW contract representatives that a small area of recently installed landscaping comprising mulch and new plantings had slumped (ie about 10 square metres in total) and deposited material in the east bound parking lane of Newcastle Road. Immediate action was taken to remove slumped debris from the roadway and place on the adjacent batter. A semi-permanent cold-mix asphalt bund was also installed on the adjacent service road (i.e. Coles Street) to divert surface flows during extreme wet weather. Additional controls were also placed at the toe to the batter to trap debris in the event further slumping were to occur during the rain event. At the conclusion of the event, Transport for NSW contractor representatives have returned to the site, have undertaken repair work on the batter (ie replacement of topsoil, mulch and plantings) and have anchored coir logs within the batter to further stabilise areas that were affected by slumping. It is expected that this treatment, in combination with the work undertaken during the event, will provide for the long-term protection of the batter while landscape plantings establish.

Lookout Road House Demolition - Rain Event (over criteria) - 24 March 2021

During the period 18th March to 23rd March 2021 in excess of 400mm was recorded in the Newcastle/Hunter Region. During this rain event, it was observed at a routine inspection there were some environmental controls between the front of properties of 102-106 Lookout Rd were being overwhelmed. The approximate distance to the nearest storm water drain is 14m. Additional environmental controls were implemented to manage water and sediment run off including installation of sediment fencing at the front of properties and secondary controls installed between 102-106 Lookout Road to control surface flow at the top of the driveways. The existing environmental controls were cleaned out and new environmental controls were installed to maintain effectiveness post rain events. Ongoing monitoring and inspection of environmental controls as per approved erosion and sediment control plan was undertaken and maintained prior to heavy rainfall and post rainfall events.

CEMP, CEMPP & Minister's Conditions of Approval

Reports

- MCoA A26(k): Environmental Representative Monthly Report (February 2020) – Prepared and uploaded (DPIE Portal): 9th March 2021.
- E38 Operational Noise Mitigation Review – review, comment and endorse.

Monitoring

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

Community Consultation and Complaints

- There was one complaint in March relating to a pollution incident following heavy rain at the Jesmond Roundabout. This has since been closed out.
- There was one enquiry regarding a missing handrail on the shared path bridge. The handrail has now been installed.



- There was one complaint regarding pooling of water on the main deck of the shared path bridge. Inspections by the TfNSW project team following the major weather event in March did not identify an issue with drainage on the bridge. Conditions will continue to be monitored.
- Targeted consultation was carried out with stakeholders regarding the Shanty Town Heritage Investigations and creation of an oral history. A 'have your say' notification was distributed to local community groups and media which resulted in more than 20 responses from community members. The project's contracted archaeologist is carrying out interviews with respondents.

Project Positives

- House demolition works are on track to be completed ahead of schedule, despite significant rainfall and unexpected asbestos finds.



Simon Williams
NICB RP2J Environmental Representative
Director
GeoLINK



Site Images – Stage 1: Cultural Heritage Salvage / Demolition and Stage 2: Shared Path Bridge (SPB)



Image 1: SPB, Newcastle Road



Image 2: On SPB looking west



Image 3: Cultural Heritage Salvage



Image 4: Cultural Heritage Salvage



Image 5: Cultural Heritage Salvage



Image 6: Demolition

