



Transport for NSW

New Gunnedah bridge

Community update



Aerial image of project site

Project update

Work is progressing well on the new Gunnedah bridge project with the bridge taking shape now that girders are in place.

Half of the new Oxley Highway roundabout has now been constructed and the closure of View Street will allow the project team to continue work on the remaining section. Over the next three months the project team will;

- Continue work at View and Warrabungle streets
- Construct the second stage of the Oxley Highway roundabout
- Continue work on the bridge deck.

Rail possession

A major milestone was reached for the project with girders placed over the rail corridor during track possession. The project team worked around the clock as part of the 72 hour rail possession to place the girders. This continuous work schedule was required because activity within the rail corridor must be timed to occur when the line is closed for maintenance.

A 500-tonne crane was brought in for the process and girder lifts continued on the remaining six spans with up to eight girders placed a day. The team also assembled a temporary construction walkway on the bridge to allow works to continue.

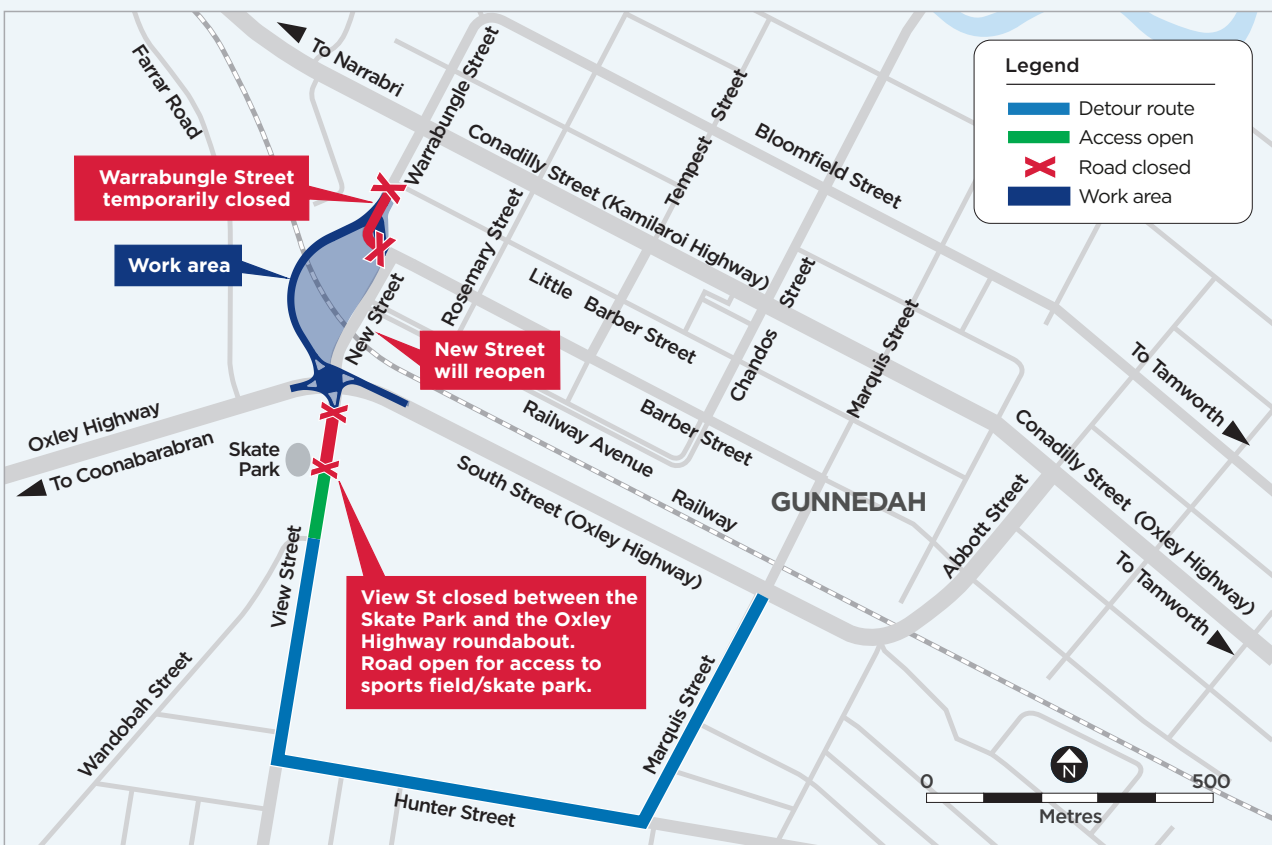
This was a complex task which took planning and precision to complete within the tight deadline which the team managed to deliver ahead of schedule.



The first girder being placed over the rail corridor during 72 hour rail possession

View Street temporarily closed

View Street has been temporarily closed to all through traffic at the intersection of the Oxley Highway. Pedestrian access will be maintained during the closure and detours are in place for traffic. View Street is expected to reopen in early July, weather permitting. **New Street has now been re-opened to traffic.** We thank the community and local businesses for their patience during the closure.





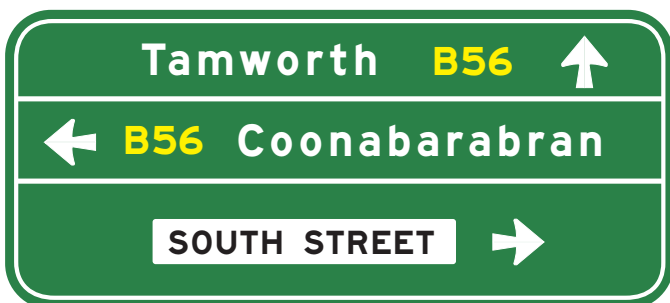
Artist impression of landscaping around the Oxley Highway roundabout area

Directional signage

The project team has developed a directional signage plan for the project. We have consulted with key stakeholders about the directional signage for the project and are now inviting community feedback.

You can view the signage plan on the project website or by visiting the project site office at 2 Little Barber Street, Gunnedah.

Please provide any feedback to the project team by **29 May 2020**. You can provide your comments by phone, email or mail using the details provided at the bottom of the community update.



Sample of directional signage that will be implemented as part of the project

Landscaping

Australian natives have been chosen to beautify the new roundabout and the Blackjack Creek area as they are a hardy species that will require minimal maintenance during the extended period of drought that we are experiencing.

The palm tree that was relocated prior to work starting will be placed back in the centre of the roundabout. The Koala habitat located around the project area has been protected and remains in place.

Out of hours works

Out of hours works may be required for concrete deck pours. Occasionally the project team work outside of the approved construction hours to allow concrete to be poured at the coolest time of the day. Concrete quality is significantly affected by the temperature at which it is poured.

If the project team work outside of normal construction hours, nearby residents will be notified directly.

Bridge naming

As the new Gunnedah bridge gets closer to completion, we'll be asking for your help to name the new bridge. Naming major bridges provides a useful navigational reference for motorists and allows the community to recognise and celebrate cultural, historical and social connections in the region. More information about how to get involved in naming the new bridge will be provided shortly.

Community involvement

The project team has been engaging with a number of community groups over the past few months who have been keen to learn more about the bridge build.

Members of Engineers Australia visited the new Gunnedah bridge project in December last year.

The group spent time viewing earthworks for the bridge on Warrabungle Street, the bridge substructure and the concrete roundabout on the Oxley Highway.

The site visit formed part of Engineers Australia's professional development where engineers expand their knowledge, maintain up-to-date technical skills and progress their engineering career. The new bridge was considered an excellent technical experience for engineers due to the complexities associated with the complex geometry of the bridge.

The Business Focus Group (BFG) has continued to meet and provide input into the project. The BFG was established to represent the interests of the local businesses when providing advice to the project team and highlight issues and opportunities that may arise during construction.

As part of the regular meetings the group has had the opportunity to visit the work site and see first-hand the progress of the new bridge.

School students who have an interest in engineering have also toured the project to learn more about what goes on with building large structures.



Business focus group site inspection in January 2020



Out of hours works may occasionally be required for concrete deck pours



A 500-tonne crane was used to place girders over the rail corridor



The local koala habitat has been protected and remains in place

For more information:

For more information on the Gunnedah Bridge project contact the team at:

☎ 1800 029 585 (toll free line)

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🖥 www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/northern-bridges/gunnedah



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