

# Old Northern Road, Wisemans Ferry slope and guardrail replacement work

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why did the work dates change?**

**We have revised the work schedule based on significant community feedback, with the full road closure now occurring predominantly during the weekdays, instead of the weekend.** We would like to thank the local community for raising their concerns and for their patience whilst we readjusted our work schedules. We appreciate that this work will have significant impacts on residents and businesses no matter when it is carried out and hope we can complete it as quickly as possible before Christmas

- **What are the new traffic changes?**

Our revised work schedule is as follows:

- **From 7am to 5pm on Thursday 9 December and Friday 10 December** – single lane closure
- **From 9pm Sunday 12 December to 6am Wednesday 15 December** – full road closure
- **On Wednesday 15 December and Thursday 16 December** from 6am to 9pm single lane closure, and from 9pm to 6am the following day, full road closure
- **From 6am Friday 17 December to 9pm Sunday, 19 December** – single lane closure
- **From 9pm, Sunday 19 December to 6am Monday 20 December** – full road closure
- **On Monday 20 December and Tuesday 21 December** – from 6am to 9pm single lane closure, and from 9pm to 6am the following day, full road closure

- **Are there new impacts we need to consider?**

We also appreciate that closing the road during the week is not ideal for other stakeholders.

For example, anyone planning to make deliveries with larger vehicles will not be able to access the area north of the worksite during the full road closures. The detour routes available are not suitable due to pre-existing road conditions and restrictions on heavy vehicles over 15 tonnes. Vehicles over 15 tonnes will still be able to access the area up to the size of a truck and dog, during the single lane closures under traffic management. We suggest that alternative arrangements are made for those expecting deliveries during this time to reschedule accordingly.

This also means school buses will be unable to access the area on Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 December. We have been in contact with the schools to make alternative arrangements for those students affected.

We also acknowledge that residents will also be impacted, especially those who commute into and out of the area for work during these times or are expecting any visitors. There are other local detour options available and we expect the traffic volumes on these roads to be significantly lower during the week, than over the weekend.

- **What was the crash that took place?**

In September the incident involved a truck driving through the guard rail and partially off the road, damaging the fence and retaining wall. The driver attended hospital and the road was closed at the time to retrieve the truck.

- **Why is the work happening now and not before?**

The traffic incident that caused damage to the road and safety assets took place in September. The road was closed for a short period and temporary make-safe measures were put in place. During follow up inspections of the crash site, the full extent of the damage was determined to inform reinstatement of permanent safety infrastructure comprising the guardrail. Other factors of note are that the dry-stone retaining wall was also identified as being of local heritage significance and requires additional approvals and specialised stone masons to rebuild it. It has taken a number of months to plan this essential safety repair work.

- **Why can't you carry out the work at a later date?**

We appreciate this timing, coming close to the peak holiday period is not ideal, particularly after the COVID lockdown restrictions have been lifted. But now we have a confirmed construction approach and required approvals in place, we cannot leave the site in its current condition any longer to ensure road users are kept safe when travelling in the area. The work will be completed before Christmas and the school holiday break, to minimise the impact to those who have plans for the holidays and ensure that permanent guard rail is installed as soon as possible.

- **What happens if it rains?**

We can still carry out work activities in the rain. However, if there is heavy, torrential rain or high winds that compromise the safety of our activities, we will stop work, demobilise the site and reopen the road to ensure the safety of our workers. We will update the variable message boards and [livetraffic.com](http://livetraffic.com) in the area to advise the community of any changes to the traffic conditions. If you would like to sign up to our email distribution list to also receive updates, please contact our delivery partner, Fulton Hogan at [info.river@fultonhogan.com.au](mailto:info.river@fultonhogan.com.au)

- **Why is the detour so long?**

Unfortunately, there are quite a few access constraints in this area. Old Northern Road is the main access road to Wisemans Ferry. There are other local road detours in the vicinity such as River Road, however we do not recommend road users to take this alternate route due to the condition of the road.

The safest and recommended alternate route for all vehicles is via the M1, using the Peats Ridge Road exit, then along Wisemans Ferry Road to access the northern side of the Hawkesbury. If you need to cross into Wisemans Ferry township, this can be done using the Ferry crossing which takes approximately 4 minutes.

- **What about deliveries?**

For heavy vehicles needing to access the area to make deliveries, we suggest that this is completed during the single lane closures during the week where two-way access on Old Northern Road will be maintained.