

Windsor Bridge replacement project

August 2016

The NSW Government is building this important project to provide a safe and reliable crossing of the Hawkesbury River at Windsor. The existing Windsor Bridge is over 140 years old, is deteriorating, no longer meets current engineering and road safety standards and needs to be replaced.

Roads and Maritime Services recently started heritage and environmental investigations to inform the detailed design for the project and meet our project approval conditions.

In August we will start an archaeological testing program which will involve digging test pits in various locations within the project area to locate and assess Aboriginal and historic heritage.

This archaeological testing program will start from **Wednesday, 17 August** and take about **three months** to complete, weather permitting. Our working hours will be from **7am to 6pm, Mondays to Fridays** and **8am to 1pm on Saturdays**.

We have included a map in this project update to help explain the locations of the archaeological testing activities.

It will take up to five days to excavate and assess each test pit, depending on ground conditions and weather. The test pit locations will be covered between shifts and they will be backfilled and resurfaced progressively once the investigations are complete.

Some work will also be carried out by maritime archaeologists and divers to excavate and record material from the Hawkesbury riverbed. There will be no disruption to the waterway while the maritime excavations are carried out.

Why is Windsor Bridge being replaced?

Roads and Maritime is delivering this project to:

- Improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists from a new, reliable bridge
- Improve traffic flow and traffic efficiency by installing traffic lights at the intersection of Bridge and George Streets and a new dual-lane roundabout at Freemans Reach Road and Wilberforce Road.
- Upgrade an essential local and regional road link across the Hawkesbury River at Windsor
- Increase flood immunity from a new bridge that can cope with higher levels of flooding and will have the same flood immunity as surrounding approach roads on the northern riverbank
- Give better access for pedestrians and cyclists from a three metre wide shared pedestrian and cycle path that provides safe, efficient connections to Thompson Square and surrounds
- Reduce the road footprint within the Thompson Square heritage precinct
- Unify the open space in Thompson Square and increase the usable area in the square by more than 500 square metres with direct access to the river.



Artist's impression of the new bridge looking north



Frequently asked questions

Q: Who is carrying out the archaeological testing program?

Roads and Maritime has engaged a team of archaeologists with experience in Aboriginal, historical and maritime archaeology to carry out this work. We will continue to consult our registered Aboriginal stakeholders throughout the investigation process.

Q: How were the testing locations chosen?

The test pit locations are in areas identified as having a high likelihood of finding Aboriginal and historic evidence based on previous heritage assessments and historical records of the area. The locations were chosen to provide adequate coverage of the study area while also limiting impacts to the community and traffic where possible.

Q: What kind of heritage items do you expect to uncover?

The excavations may identify items such as remains of earlier buildings and older road surfaces. The archaeological team may be able to recover materials and artefacts related to daily life such as pottery, glass, bone and other everyday objects.

A range of Aboriginal stone artefacts are expected to be recovered during excavation. The archaeologists will also look for evidence of traditional activities, such as food remains like shells along with other materials suitable to date archaeological deposits.

Q: What will happen to heritage items that are uncovered?

Heritage items will be taken off-site for sorting and recording.

The long-term location for heritage items will be dependent on the nature and significance of the finds and will be determined in consultation with the Department of Planning and Environment, Office of Environment and Heritage and registered Aboriginal stakeholders.

Q: Is the temporary site compound safe?

Yes. In response to the recent discovery of two small pieces of asbestos, strict protocols were implemented and all the recycled material, including the two small pieces of bonded asbestos (around the size of a tea bag) were removed from site by an independent specialist asbestos contractor. This followed WorkCover approval and communication with our key stakeholders and nearby residents.

After finishing the removal work, the contractor issued a clearance certificate to declare the site safe for work to restart.

For more information, view the question and answer document on Roads and Maritime's website at rms.nsw.gov.au/windsorbridge.

How will the work affect you?

Machinery and equipment will be in place throughout the project area while the archaeological program is carried out.

We will carry out the work gradually to minimise impacts to the local community. We will start on the northern side of the river before moving to the southern side and Thompson Square.

There may be some noise associated with the excavation work, however we will complete it as quickly as possible to minimise disruptions.

Traffic changes

There will be some temporary traffic changes in the project area to ensure the work zone is safe. Lane closures may be in place and could affect travel times. Please keep to speed limits and follow the direction of traffic controllers and signs. For the latest traffic updates, you can call 132 701, visit livetraffic.com or download the Live Traffic NSW App.

Background

Roads and Maritime is replacing the existing Windsor Bridge with a new bridge 35 metres downstream. New approach roads and intersections will be built and existing approach roads will be filled in and landscaped. The existing bridge will be removed once the new bridge is open to traffic.

Contact us

For more information please contact the project team:



1800 712 909 (during business hours)



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More information is also available at rms.nsw.gov.au/windsorbridge

Next steps

After the archaeological testing program is complete, Road and Maritime will prepare a Strategic Conservation Management Plan to outline how we will conserve and minimise impacts to Thompson Square and historical sites during construction of the project. The plan will be made available to view on Roads and Maritime's website.

In late 2016, Roads and Maritime will invite community feedback on the proposed Urban Design and Landscape Plan for the project. We are currently finalising the proposal and will provide more information soon, including how you can provide feedback.



Translating and Interpreting Service

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450** and ask them to telephone Roads and Maritime Services on 1800 712 909

Arabic

إذا كنتم بحاجة إلى مترجم، الرجاء الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الخطية والشفهية (TIS National) على الرقم 1800 712 909، والطلب منهم الاتصال بوكالتكم Roads and Maritime Services على الرقم 131 450

Cantonese

若你需要口譯員，請致電 **131 450** 聯絡翻譯和口譯服務署 (TIS National)，要求他們致電 1800 712 909 聯絡 Roads and Maritime Services。

Mandarin

如果你需要口译员，请致电 **131 450** 联系翻译和口译服务署 (TIS National)，要求他们致电 1800 712 909 联系 Roads and Maritime Services。

Greek

Αν χρειάζεστε διερμηνέα, παρακαλείστε να τηλεφωνήσετε στην Υπηρεσία Μετάφρασης και Διερμηνείας (Εθνική Υπηρεσία TIS) στο **131 450** και ζητήστε να τηλεφωνήσουν Roads and Maritime Services στο 1800 712 909

Italian

Se desiderate l'assistenza di un interprete, prego telefonare al Servizio Interpreti e Traduttori (TIS National) al **131 450** chiedendo di contattare Roads and Maritime Services al 1800 712 909

Korean

통역사가 필요하시면 번역통역서비스 (TIS National) 에 **131 450** 으로 연락하여 이들에게 1800 712 909 번으로 Roads and Maritime Services 에 전화하도록 요청하십시오.

Vietnamese

Nếu cần thông ngôn viên, xin quý vị gọi cho Dịch Vụ Thông Phiên Dịch (TIS Toàn Quốc) qua số **131 450** và nhớ họ gọi cho Roads and Maritime Services qua số 1800 712 909