



Australian Government



# New Dubbo Bridge

## Frequently Asked Questions

Transport for NSW | February 2023

### Why do we need a New Dubbo Bridge?

This second high-level crossing of the Macquarie River, which will connect to River Street, will provide an essential east-west connector for Dubbo to ensure access during floods for emergency services, local schools, hospitals, and the airport. Once complete, the New Dubbo Bridge will be a key link in the western NSW road network, improving traffic efficiency along the Newell Highway, reducing traffic congestion for locals and commuters, and improving access across the Macquarie River flood plain during flood events.

### What are the benefits of the New Dubbo Bridge?

The new bridge will improve local traffic flow, provide better access for freight and heavy vehicle traffic across the Macquarie River, especially during flood events, and reduce local collision risks. The new bridge will make a major difference to the day-to-day lives of commuters, by easing congestion and ensuring reliable access through Dubbo at all times, including during flood events.

### How will the New Dubbo Bridge project improve my journey around Dubbo?

The existing Newell Highway route from Thompson Street to Bourke Street has 12 intersections, numerous commercial and

residential access points, and roadside parking. The New Dubbo Bridge project will reduce this to two intersections (one at Thompson Street and one at Bourke Street), as well providing a road that can be extended to access the future Northwest development. Fewer intersections will effectively reduce the associated collision risks. In the past 10 years, there have been 74 crashes in this area, with 70 per cent of these associated with intersections.

### Why is the bridge being built at River Street?

Six design options were considered for the New Dubbo Bridge. The River Street design of the New Dubbo Bridge out-performed the other five displayed options, attracting the highest benefit-to-cost ratio of all the options presented to the community, and would facilitate access to Dubbo Regional Council's proposed Northwest housing precinct.

### Why was a bridge at River Street chosen over a Dubbo ring road/bypass?

A bridge at the River Street location was not chosen over or instead of a Dubbo bypass. Dubbo Regional Council's Transportation Strategy sets out a vision for providing future road network options such as ring roads or a bypass. While a bypass may be a project for the future, it is not currently being considered for construction by Transport for NSW. The River Street option for a high-level crossing of the Macquarie River, and a full Dubbo bypass, are

two separate projects with separate goals and benefits. The bypass is not an alternative for the River Street bridge option.

The River Street bridge option will relieve local congestion when needed most, during a flood. Traffic modelling shows up to **90 per cent of vehicles** (and **77 per cent of heavy vehicles**) are travelling to Dubbo for work, shopping, or recreation purposes. An outer bypass option in a location such as at Troy Bridge would only cater for **10 per cent of vehicles** while local flooding and east-west congestion would remain an issue.

## Why was a bridge at River Street chosen over the LH Ford Bridge duplication?

A bridge at River Street was chosen over the LH Ford Bridge Duplication as it will provide improved traffic flow around Dubbo, both in non-flood and flood conditions, has reduced environmental impacts and allows for future residential growth.

While the LH Ford Bridge duplication was investigated as one of the six strategic options considered, it was not progressed as it did not meet the project objectives and congestion would remain an issue on either side of the bridge.

## How will the New Dubbo Bridge project support local businesses and the Dubbo economy?

The New Dubbo Bridge project will create around **290** direct and **1,200** indirect jobs during construction. Once complete, the new main road and bridge will build opportunity and unlock economic growth as a valuable transport link between the local Dubbo community and the wider region.

## Will the New Dubbo Bridge improve traffic on Whylandra Street?

It is not an objective of the New Dubbo Bridge to address congestion on Whylandra Street. This is being addressed by the upgrade of the Newell and Mitchell highway intersection. Dubbo Regional Council is responsible for addressing

local traffic needs and issues arising from the expansion of west Dubbo.

## How are Transport for NSW consulting with the community about the project?

The project team continues to consult and engage with residents, landholders, Aboriginal groups, Dubbo Regional Council, affected businesses and the broader community to keep them informed about the project and address and issues raised.

TfNSW carried out extensive community consultation in 2016 and 2019. The Building a Better Dubbo 2019 Consultation Report was released at the same time as the Submissions Report and provides a summary of all suggestions, issues and concerns raised by the community and stakeholders.

We are continuing to regularly consult with directly impacted businesses, residents, and other local stakeholders. The community can contact our project team anytime on 1800 803 818 or [dubboprojects@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dubboprojects@transport.nsw.gov.au), or visit [nswroads.work/dubbo](http://nswroads.work/dubbo).

## How long will the New Dubbo Bridge take to build?

It is expected that the New Dubbo Bridge will take approximately 3 years to complete.

This is in addition to the early works packages that were completed in 2022.

## How much is the New Dubbo Bridge going to cost?

The Australian Government and New South Wales Government are making a **\$220.2 million** investment in western NSW with the New Dubbo Bridge.

The new bridge is the fifth, and final, infrastructure project to be delivered under the Building a Better Dubbo project.

## Is the New Dubbo Bridge flood proof?

The new high-level bridge will provide **one in a 100-year flood** immunity, while the upgraded

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roads on either side of the bridge will provide flood immunity up to **one in a 50-year** Macquarie River flood.

## Where is the project up to?

Early works for the project began on 1 August 2022 and are now complete.

Preparation works, including establishing site compounds, are underway with piling expected to commence in March 2023.

## What is happening next?

Crews are now ready to commence bridge piling and road construction in March 2023.

## What is happening at Wiradjuri Park?

Wiradjuri Park will be temporarily closed to the public for the duration of the project.

We have plans to beautify the park as part of the New Dubbo Bridge project. Consultation with local community will continue as we finalise design for the park, and work to create an attractive community space that considers local Aboriginal heritage.

## How will the project support the local economy?

The project has a strong focus on forming partnerships with local businesses, on engaging and supporting women, Aboriginal people, trainees, and young workers, and a commitment to ensuring at least 20 per cent of the workforce resides in the local area.

If you would like to know more about opportunities to be involved in the project, contact our project team anytime on 1800 803 818 or [dubboprojects@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dubboprojects@transport.nsw.gov.au), or visit [nswroads.work/dubbo](http://nswroads.work/dubbo)

## Will there be traffic changes during the project?

River Street will be permanently closed between Bourke Street and Brisbane Street to facilitate the new bridge.

The community will be notified prior to closure and adjacent residents consulted with on access requirements.

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## Have your say

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact our project team:

1800 803 818

[dubboprojects@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dubboprojects@transport.nsw.gov.au)

[nswroads.work/dubbo](http://nswroads.work/dubbo)



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