

Transport for NSW



Australian Government



Newcastle Inner City Bypass Rankin Park to Jesmond

Project Update

August 2023

nswroads.work/rp2j



Aerial view of work underway at Jesmond roundabout (May 2023)

The Australian and NSW governments are funding the Rankin Park to Jesmond section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass. The bypass will be built to the west of John Hunter Hospital.

Fulton Hogan Construction Pty Ltd started building the project in March 2023. The project will take three years to complete, weather permitting.



Project overview

The project involves building a 3.4 kilometre four-lane divided road including:

- a northern interchange at Newcastle Road
- an interchange providing access to the John Hunter Hospital precinct
- a southern interchange at Lookout Road
- structures to improve connectivity in the bushland for people and animals
- off-road provisions for pedestrians and cyclists.



Project benefits

The project will provide traffic relief to the surrounding road network, in particular the existing route of Lookout Road, Croudace Street and Newcastle Road, which is currently used by about 40,000 to 60,000 vehicles each day.

The new bypass will remove up to 30,000 vehicles each day from the existing route.

When completed, motorists travelling on the new section of bypass will avoid up to 11 sets of traffic lights along the existing route.

The bypass is expected to reduce travel times by up to 80 per cent during morning and afternoon peaks.

Connectivity to the John Hunter Hospital precinct will be improved with a full interchange on the bypass providing access for the hospital from the north and south. This will help to improve access for staff, patients and visitors travelling to and from the hospital precinct.



Work completed and underway

Fulton Hogan has now completed establishing the site, setting up site compounds and environmental controls and tree clearing on the project alignment.

We have also completed the archaeological salvage of the historical 1920's era Hollywood camp.

Environmental controls such as dust monitors and sediment controls have been set up around the work site, and will continue to be monitored throughout the duration of the project.

Vegetation removal along the project alignment is now complete, and utility investigations, installation and relocation are well underway.

The installation of safety barriers, line marking, and traffic signage will continue to support road realigning and adjustments.

Preparation for upcoming bridgework has started. Piling rigs are now on site and bridge piling started at the northern interchange in mid June.

Work will continue to be carried out from 7am to 6pm on weekdays and 8am to 5pm on Saturdays. To minimise impacts to motorists, some night work will also be carried out between 6pm and 7am on weeknights. Residents will continue to be notified before out of hours work is carried out and directly affected residents will be contacted and advised of any likely impact.



Bridge piling starts at the northern interchange (June 2023)



Upcoming work

In the next three months work activities will include:

- ongoing geotechnical and survey investigations
- pedestrian and shared path diversions
- utility investigations and relocations
- environmental protection, mitigation and control activities
- major earthworks to include loading, placement and hauling of material (including across McCaffrey Drive)
- piling foundations which provide structural strength for future bridge construction work at Jesmond
- installation of drainage structures at Jesmond including stormwater pits, concrete box culvers, and stormwater pipes as part of the new drainage system
- removal of concrete medians and islands
- milling and profiling existing road surfaces
- installation of additional barriers on the existing Newcastle Inner City Bypass
- asphaltting to facilitate adjustment to traffic lanes and line marking
- adjustment to existing traffic lights at Jesmond roundabout and road signage.



Fun facts



There are 159 bored piles on the project ranging from 600mm to 1050mm in diameter



More than 1.2 kilometres in depth will be drilled for all the piles, this is more than the Eiffel Tower stacked end to end four times!



Traffic changes

There will be temporary lane closures and reduced speed limits on the surrounding roads.

Please keep to the sign posted speed limits and follow the direction of traffic controllers.

For the latest traffic updates, call 132 701, visit livetraffic.com or check the Live Traffic App.



Cycling and pedestrian impacts

A number of tracks in the bushland have been closed and the shared path at Jesmond Park has been detoured to allow construction of the bypass to be carried out.

We will keep the community informed about any changes using signage and information on the interactive project portal.



What is bridge piling?

Cylindrical bodies made of concrete, known as bored piles, are being installed in the ground to provide structural support for the bridges constructed as part of the bypass.

Piles are drilled into the ground with a geotechnical engineer onsite, who observes the soil being removed to ensure it is consistent with design.

A prefabricated reinforcement cage is then placed into the pile hole and concrete is poured into the hole. There are six bridges being built as part of the bypass and more than 60 piles will be installed for these bridges.



We will keep you informed about the Jesmond Park shared path detours



140 trucks of concrete to be used in making the piles for 6 bridges



Work underway at the southern interchange (May 2023)



Protecting biodiversity and reducing impacts on the environment

Transport seeks to avoid, minimise and mitigate the impacts of roads and other infrastructure on biodiversity and the environment during the development and design of its projects.

To compensate for impacts to threatened ecological communities and species as a result of the project, biodiversity offsets will be provided in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects.

We will offset the removal of trees in line with the NSW Biodiversity Offset Strategy. An arborist and an environmental supervisor are on site to monitor the vegetation removal and all the activities will occur within a defined area.

In addition to biodiversity offsetting, a number of initiatives will be carried out to further mitigate impacts to the environment.

Flora and fauna protection is a key part of our environmental management plans for the site.

A dedicated ecologist has overseen clearing activities, with walks at the beginning of every shift (day or night) to identify and relocate any fauna to outside the construction area –but within the same habitat area –before activities occur. We have a fauna protection procedure to safely relocate animals under the guidance of our ecologist. We will also work with local wildlife rescue groups if needed.

Interactive online project portal

Our new online interactive project portal is now live!



Scan the QR code to visit the interactive portal.

SCAN ME

The portal features an interactive map showing the project design, before and after images, animation videos, work activity and much more. We will regularly update the portal during construction.



Contact us

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



1800 818 433 (business hours)



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Join our e-update list

You can subscribe to be emailed project updates via the interactive portal or by sending our team an email at RP2JCommunity@fultonhogan.com.au



766 m³ of concrete will be used in the piles. This is about 140 trucks of concrete.



190 tonnes of reinforcement will be used in the piles. This equates to over 32 elephants in weight



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