

Newell Highway Flood Mitigation – West Wyalong to Forbes



Australian Government



Aerial view of flooding at Marsden showing the Newell Highway in the foreground, 27 October 2022

The Australian Government and the NSW Government have committed to flood mitigation works on the Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes.

Transport for NSW (Transport) is investigating potential flood mitigation solutions for the Newell Highway between Compton Road, West Wyalong and Hereford Street, Forbes.

The primary objective of the project is to reduce the amount of time the Newell Highway is closed between West Wyalong and Forbes during and after flood events.

Transport will prioritise flood mitigation around Marsden as flood studies have shown that this area flooded first, had the deepest water across the road and was where the highway stayed closed the longest.

Proposed treatments include installing box culverts (small bridges) to allow water to pass freely under the highway, raising the road level and laying a more robust pavement that would remain open to traffic for longer during flood events.

Your input is important in helping Transport provide the best possible flood mitigation solutions.

We are seeking community and stakeholder feedback to help inform the project design until **27 July 2023**.

We invite you to talk to the project team or scan the QR code to provide your input through our online engagement portal at www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/ww2f-flood-mitigation



Project background

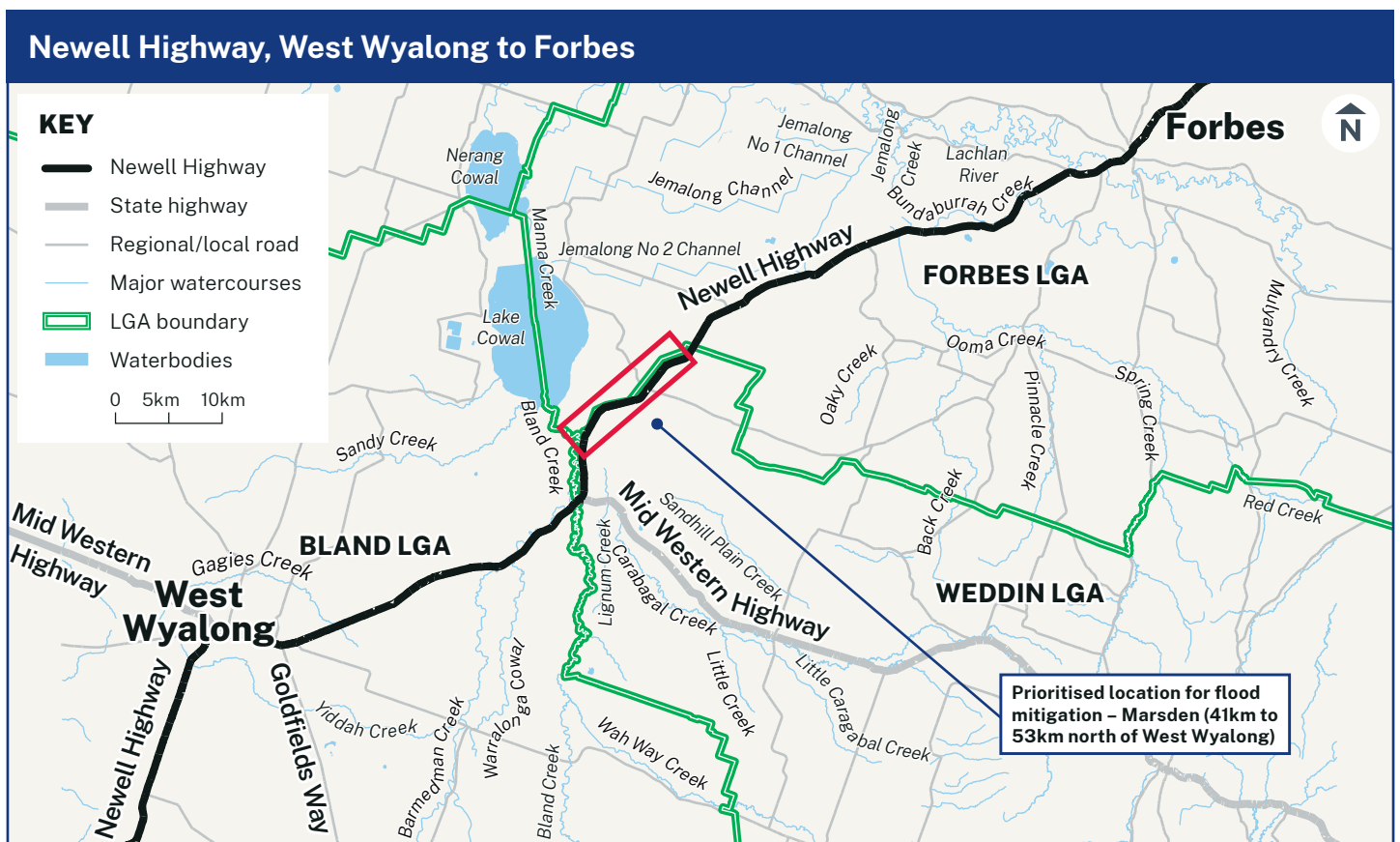
The Newell Highway is prone to flooding between West Wyalong and Forbes and has a history of road closures during periods of heavy rain in the Lachlan catchment.

From late October 2022, the highway was closed for seven weeks when around 20 kilometres of this section was flooded. From September 2016, the highway was closed for six weeks due to flooding.

Comprehensive flood studies have found the Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes is particularly susceptible to flooding by the Lake Cowal/Bland Creek catchment at Marsden.

Studies have also identified which causeways across the highway flooded first in 2022, stayed closed the longest, the depth of water at each and the susceptibility of the pavement to damage caused by the floodwaters.

On the basis of these studies, Transport is proposing to provide around 11 kilometres of flood mitigation treatments at Marsden as this will significantly reduce the length of time the highway is closed during and after any future flood events.



We want to hear from you

Transport is seeking your feedback on the proposed plans for flood mitigation on the Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes.

We would value your insights on the treatments proposed at Marsden, along with any other ideas or comments on the project that you would like to provide.

We would also appreciate any flood records, for example photographs of floodwaters or rainfall records, from the 2022 or earlier flood events that you would be willing to share with us to assist our continuing flood studies.

We recognise you have lived through the impacts of the floods and highway closures and we value your feedback, information and insights.

You can provide input through:

- scanning the QR code to access our online engagement portal at www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/ww2f-flood-mitigation
- posting the printed survey to our reply paid address
- talking with the project team at a face-to-face or online consultation session
- calling us on **1800 741 636** or emailing us at newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au to book a phone consultation.



Online engagement portal

The screenshot shows the 'Interactive map' section of the portal. At the top, there are navigation tabs: 'Interactive map' (selected), 'Complete a survey', 'Share your ideas', and 'Register for a consultation session'. Below the tabs is a 'Your privacy' link. The main content area is titled 'Interactive map' and features a satellite map with blue floodwater overlays. Below the map, there is a 'mapbox' logo and a paragraph of text: 'You can drop a pin on the interactive map to make a comment or upload an image at a specific location. To add a pin, select the "+" icon, then drag the pin to where you want it on the map. You will need to enter your email address and a screen name. Your screen name will be visible to the public along with any comment or image you upload. If you have more than one image, you can drop multiple pins or [complete a survey](#) where you can upload images in a zip file.'

Callout boxes on the left side of the screenshot provide instructions:

- Drop a pin on the interactive map** to make a comment or upload an image at a specific location
- Complete the online survey** and upload your flood records
- Provide **ideas or feedback** on any aspect of this project

A callout box on the right side of the screenshot points to the 'Register for a consultation session' tab, stating: 'Register for a face-to-face or online **consultation session**'

 **Saving travel time**
by reducing road closures

 Improving
road safety

 **Keeping freight moving**
and communities connected

 **Reducing maintenance costs**
by improving pavement resilience

Talk to the project team

We will hold face-to-face consultation sessions at West Wyalong and Forbes where you can drop in to talk to the project team.

We will also hold an online consultation session for those who prefer to engage this way or can't attend a face-to-face session.

Face-to-face consultation sessions

Monday 17 July 4.30pm–6.30pm
West Wyalong Services & Citizens Club (Auditorium)
100 Monash Street, West Wyalong

Tuesday 18 July 4.30pm–6.30pm
Club Forbes (Gallipoli Function Room)
41-43 Templar Street, Forbes

Online consultation session

Thursday 20 July 6.30pm–8pm

Please register for a consultation session at www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/ww2f-flood-mitigation

Onsite or online meetings

If you have site-specific project questions or concerns and would like the project team to meet with you at your property, please contact us and request an onsite meeting. We can also organise an online meeting to discuss your questions or concerns if you prefer.

Contact us

Please contact the project team if you have any questions or would like more information:



1800 741 636



newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au



nswroads.work/ww2f



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1800 741 636**.

June 2023
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Subscribe for project updates

Sign up for eNewsletter updates when you complete our survey or email or call us to subscribe, so you never miss a project update.

Next steps

Following the close of the consultation period we will provide a summary of the feedback received on our online engagement portal and we will also distribute this via eNewsletter to those who have subscribed for project updates.

If you own property within or close to the project footprint we will be reaching out to you soon, as we understand you will want to know what the proposed works may mean for you.

We recognise that flood mitigation treatments can alter the local environment and we will be carefully considering all potential impacts of the project through our environmental assessment process.

Please don't hesitate to contact the project team if you have questions, concerns or suggestions about the project now or in the future.

