

Completion Community Update – December 2023

Newell Highway Program Alliance



Australian Government



Newell Highway Program Alliance and Transport for NSW team members at the completion event held in the Pilliga near Narrabri in November 2023

The Newell Highway Program Alliance (NHPA) has delivered 38 additional overtaking lanes and various safety upgrades along the Newell Highway between Tocumwal and Narrabri over four years from 2019 to 2023.

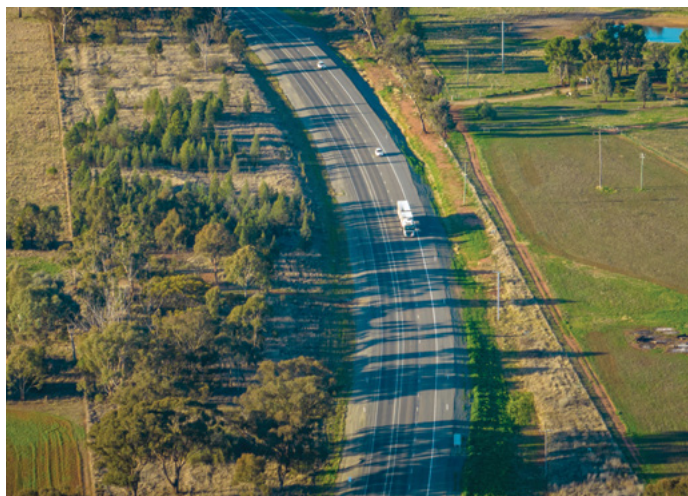
The \$236.8 million program was jointly funded by the Australian Government and the NSW Government. The completion of the project means faster, safer and more reliable journeys for residents, tourists and freight operators travelling in regional NSW.

From the sky

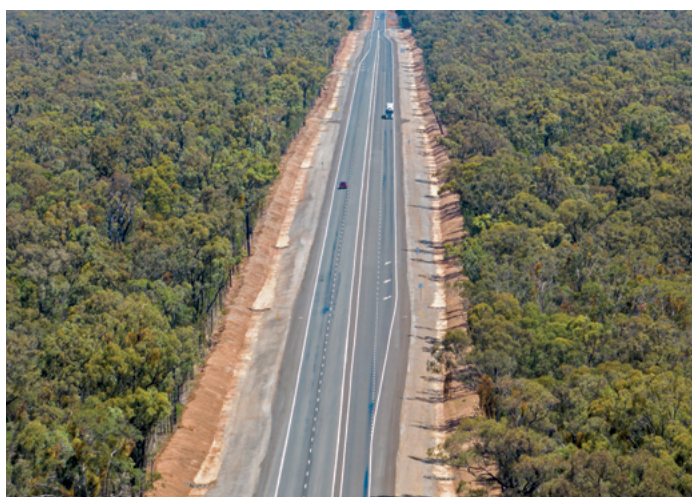
A bird's eye view of the recently completed overtaking lanes at Mirrool, Daroobalgie, Pilliga Sir William Bridges, Pilliga Dandry, Pilliga Rest Area and Gullifers Road.



Aerial photo of the southbound overtaking lane at Mirrool



Aerial photo of the southbound overtaking lane at Daroobalgie



Aerial photo of the northbound and southbound overtaking lanes at Pilliga Sir William Bridges



Aerial photo of the northbound and southbound overtaking lanes at Pilliga Dandry

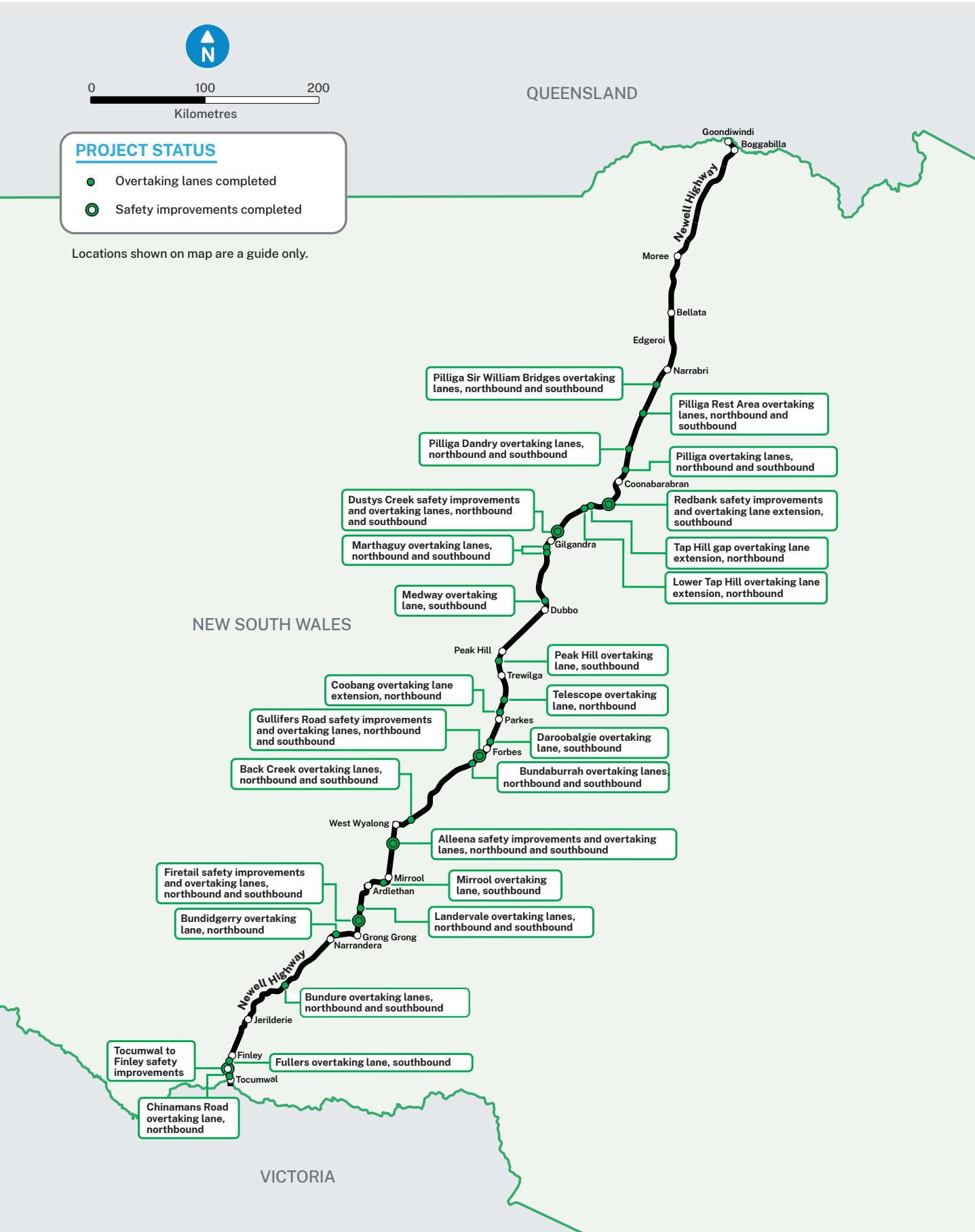


Aerial photo of the northbound and southbound overtaking lanes at Pilliga Rest Area



Aerial photo of the northbound and southbound overtaking lanes at Gullifers Road

Map of completed projects



Improving highway resilience

To increase the resilience and reliability of the highway, and reduce ongoing maintenance costs the NHPA used new materials and techniques in construction.

Heavy bound pavements

Throughout the Program, the NHPA encountered varying ground and weather conditions whilst delivering 38 lanes across 26 project sites.

This variability in conditions provided an excellent opportunity to trial and test different methods and types of road pavement construction over the course of the last four years.

The Gullifers Road team designed, produced, and placed a Heavy Bound Base (HBB) pavement.

This type of pavement was selected to overcome the unique local challenges associated with the soil conditions in the Forbes region and to improve the overall flood resilience.

The type of soils located in the area below the road expand and contract significantly when exposed to moisture and are often inundated during flood events. In response the NHPA select the HBB which is a mix of cement with the conventional gravel pavement.

The product was sourced and produced from the Regional Quarries in Forbes. The HBB was adopted to improve future road resilience and prevent further road damage in flood events, ultimately leading to lower road maintenance costs while improving road safety and enabling more efficient journeys for road users.

Pavements to the full width of the highway

A number of the new overtaking lanes on the Newell Highway including those constructed at Daroobalgie, Gullifers Road, Pilliga and Bundidgerry include an overlay of the existing pavement and constructed across the full width of the highway. This approach was used to improve the overall asset and increase the pavement performance by adding a new pavement layer, further this approach improves durability and resilience of the road to flooding and ultimately reduce maintenance costs.



Heavy bound pavement being sourced near Forbes



Heavy bound pavement being laid at Gullifers

Environment

Tree planting on the Newell

During the design and development of all overtaking lanes a key consideration was to minimise removal of trees. However, in some cases and for safety reasons this was not always possible. The impact to vegetation was considered in the environmental assessment carried out for all NHPA works. Where trees with a diameter greater than 300mm required removal, the NHPA aimed to regenerate the area by planting seedlings.

The NHPA committed to planting around 10,000 native tree seedlings along areas that would experience construction impacts from tree removal.

This initiative has contributed to environmental restoration and played an important role providing positive engagement with landowners across NSW.



NHPA staff members drop off seedlings to the Narrandera Food Farm, Murrumbidgee Landcare and Narrandera community members

Program completion

The final overtaking lane to be delivered by the NHPA was the Bundidgerry overtaking lane.

The northbound overtaking lane at Narrandera was opened to traffic in November 2023.

In the past six months the NHPA also completed:

- the southbound overtaking lanes at Mirrool and Darroobalgie
- six new northbound and southbound overtaking lanes in the Pilliga, near the Pilliga Rest Area; at Sir William Bridges, about 24 kilometres south of Narrabri; and Dandry about 30 kilometres north of Coonabarabran.
- northbound and southbound overtaking lanes at Gullifers Road, about 15 kilometres south of Forbes.



Photo of the northbound overtaking lane at Bundidgerry

Benefits of the NHPA



More efficient travel

More overtaking lanes on the Newell Highway provides more efficient journey times.



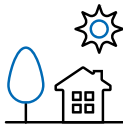
Increasing overtaking opportunities

More overtaking lanes reduces driver frustration and enables safer overtaking opportunities.



Improving freight efficiency

The overtaking lanes provide a more secure transport route for the freight and agricultural industry.



Connecting communities

The overtaking lanes provide better and safer connections between communities on the highway.



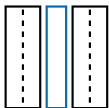
Improving road safety

The overtaking lanes increase overtaking opportunities for the mix of vehicles on the highway.



Rumble strips

Installation of rumble strips is estimated to reduce the likelihood of vehicles departing their lane by 15% to 25%.



Wide centreline

Centreline widening is estimated to reduce head-on crashes by 50% and run-off-road crashes by up to 25%.

38
overtaking
lanes
completed

6
road safety
improvements
completed

60
kilometres
of highway
constructed

Newell Highway Program Alliance

Paving the way for students

During 2023, the NHPA invited students from Narrabri High School, the Clontarf Academy and Red Bend Catholic College for excursions to construction sites near Narrabri and Forbes.

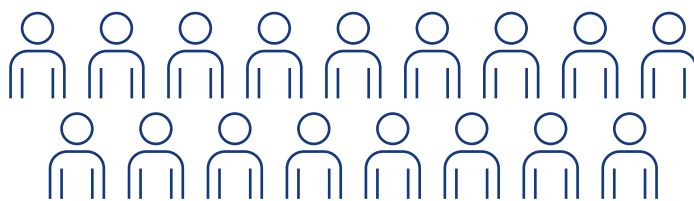
The students who are in their final years of school enjoyed a firsthand look at what a day in the construction industry involves. The students learned about the variety of local opportunities in planning, designing, and constructing overtaking lanes, and the diverse range of skills required to complete these projects.



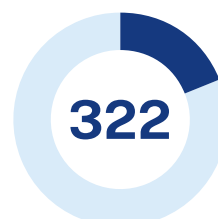
Above and below: Red Bend Catholic College students visit the Gullifers Road project site



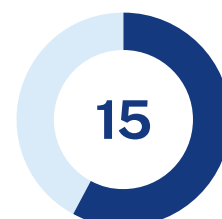
1700 people employed



female



trainees



graduate
engineers



\$20+ million spend
with Aboriginal
businesses and
employment



200+ staff
identified as
First Nation's peoples

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like further information about the NHPA, please contact the project team:



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nswroads.work/nhpa



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