

Community Update | August 2023

Newell Highway Upgrade – New Dubbo Bridge



Australian Government



Piling on River Street adjacent to the Macquarie River

The Australian Government and the NSW Government have committed \$220.2 million to build the New Dubbo Bridge project. The project aims to reduce traffic congestion in Dubbo and enhance access across the Macquarie River, particularly during flood events.

Construction update

In June, we commenced the construction of the new bridge by initiating the piling process on the land. The piling process for the river section is scheduled to begin this month, weather permitting. The bridge structure requires a total of 89 piles for support, and currently, 20 have been fully driven while 8 are partially driven.

We have also commenced the concrete filling of the piles and are actively engaging with impacted residents to address any concerns related to noise and vibrations.

The piling works will continue until the end of 2023, ensuring steady progress towards completing the project.

In addition to the ongoing piling works, there is concurrent utility relocation and upgrade work being carried out at the intersection of Bourke Street and River Street. Furthermore, we are currently installing barriers at both the intersection of Bourke Street and River Street, as well as at the intersection of Whylandra Street and Thompson Street.

Looking ahead, weather permitting, we have scheduled earthworks to commence from this month as part of the project's progression.

A special ceremony for the stone wall at Wiradjuri Park

Wiradjuri Park holds a special place in the hearts of the local community, symbolising reflection, tranquillity, and peace. However, due to the construction of the new intersection on Thompson and Newell Highway, it will be temporarily closed until the completion of the project.

Abergeldie, the lead contractor for the New Dubbo Bridge project, recognises the historical and cultural significance of the park and engaged two local elders to facilitate consultations with the appropriate groups and stakeholders.

Following the consultation process, the local Aboriginal community provided valuable insights to Abergeldie regarding a significant, culturally sensitive ceremony. Abergeldie wholeheartedly supported and encouraged the local Aboriginal community to pay their respects to the land before the closure of Wiradjuri park.

This engagement showcases Abergeldie's commitment to respecting and honouring the local Aboriginal heritage.

Jeffery Fernando, a local labourer on the project, played a role in constructing the stone wall within the park. As part of the ceremony, local Aboriginal elders were invited to pass the stones from the wall to the current Aboriginal employees working on the New Dubbo Bridge Project. The stones have been carefully disassembled and stored, and plans are underway to beautify Wiradjuri Park, taking into consideration community and Aboriginal input.

Further details regarding this revitalisation will be made available to the community in the coming months.



Uncle Maurice Wright and Local Aboriginal dancers



Brent Knight, Project Manager with the local community and Aboriginal dancers



Uncle Maurice Wright handing over a stone to Zane Carr



The project team with guests and participants in the ceremony

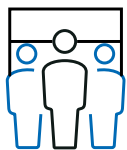
Supporting local jobs and businesses

The project has employed up to 200 staff and sub-contractors, with a strong emphasis on Aboriginal participation and hiring local workforce. Local businesses have been engaged to supply various services and products, such as concrete, quarry products, electrical and plumbing services, truck and equipment hire, accommodation, catering, cleaning, traffic control, and safety equipment.

There are still several contract opportunities available for local businesses to contribute to the project, including concrete and footpaths, fencing, plant hire, trenching and drains, and site security. To express your interest, please get in touch with the project team at **1800 803 818** or via email at **dubbo.projects@transport.nsw.gov.au**.



200 employed
on the project



34 workers
through the Aboriginal Participation in Construction Program



88 workers
residing in the local area

Community engagement

The project team has actively collaborated with Dubbo Regional Council and the Dubbo Chamber of Commerce to promote local business and supplier opportunities, emphasising the inclusion of women, Aboriginal individuals, trainees, and young workers. We take great pride in the significant Aboriginal participation on this project. In fact, we have employed over 34 workers through the Aboriginal Participation in Construction Program. This engagement not only benefits the local economy but also contributes to a sustainable and diverse industry base in the Central West, thanks to a skilled workforce.

Staff spotlight

Jai Kerr



Where are you from?

I was born in Sydney but have lived in Dubbo the majority of my life.

How did you get involved in the project?

I saw an ad for employment and applied.

What makes you most proud about working on this project?

It is so interesting being involved in a huge project like the New Dubbo Bridge. I'm proud to be learning new things and getting tickets and qualifications along the way.

Zane Carr



Where are you from?

A Dubbo boy.

How did you get involved in the project?

I actually saw a couple of pictures of the bridge online and thought that it would be a great opportunity to get involved and be part of this once-in-a-lifetime project in Dubbo.

What makes you most proud about working on this project?

I love coming to work as everyday is different. I'm outside and learning lots of new skills that will set me up for a successful career.

Sista's in Trade Program

Last month, we had the pleasure of hosting nine work experience students at the project site, providing them with a firsthand experience of working on a large-scale infrastructure project in their hometown.

Through the Sista's in Trade program, which connects local employers and training organisations, we create a valuable platform for local First Nations women to launch their careers in construction, infrastructure, and manufacturing.

This program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and delivered by Bamara in partnership with VERTO and BEST Employment Ltd.

During the week-long work experience, the participants had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the New Dubbo Bridge construction site. They shadowed supervisors, took part in a safety walk, conducted a letterbox drop, and participated in a stone survey. The team greatly enjoyed sharing their knowledge and experience, including insights into what it means to be a woman in the construction industry. It was a rewarding experience for both the students and our team.



Sista's in Trade at the New Dubbo Bridge site on River Street



Sista's in Trade at the New Dubbo Bridge site on River Street

Newell Highway Upgrade – New Dubbo Bridge

Did you know?

The New Dubbo Bridge will be 660m long, 47m longer than the L H Ford Bridge and just over 7 times longer than the Emile Serisier Bridge!

How can people stay up to date with the progress of the project?

Very easily! Visit the project website nswroads.work/dubbo, email dubboprojects@transport.nsw.gov.au to receive all of our updates or call **1800 803 818**.



660m
New Dubbo Bridge



613m
L H Ford Bridge



90m
Emile Serisier



Artist impression of the New Dubbo Bridge from River Street



Artist impression of the New Dubbo Bridge from Whylandra Street

The New Dubbo Bridge Team

Our People

- 200** Workers have been inducted on the project
- 44%** Identify as local or regional workforce
- 25%** Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 19%** Under 25 years old
- 5** Women in non-traditional roles

Indigenous employment

- 25%** Of our workforce identify as Indigenous
- 1** Pre-employment program delivered with 7 outcomes

Business engaged

- 44** Local businesses engaged
- 8** Certified Aboriginal Businesses

Skilled trades

- 29** Skilled trades have been engaged
- 79%** Of the skilled trades are local or from regional NSW
- 1** Lady tradie

Learning workers

- 3** Apprentices
- 2** Graduates
- 1** Traineeship
- 9** Work experience

Contact us

As we embark on major work, our commitment to collaboration with the community and key stakeholders remains a top priority. We will ensure to keep you informed and updated on our progress. If you have any questions or require additional information about the upgrade, please don't hesitate to reach out to the project team:



1800 803 818



dubboprojects@transport.nsw.gov.au



nswroads.work/dubbo



This document contains important information about road projects in your area. If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call the project team on **1800 803 818**. The interpreter will then assist you with translation.

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