

Project Update | October 2023

Mitchell Highway, Dubbo to Narromine Upgrade



Newly finished Wynlsey Lane Westbound Overtaking Lane

Construction update

Traffic heading from Dubbo to Narromine can now benefit from the newly completed **Wynsley Lane** overtaking lane, located 10 kilometres east of Narromine. This marks the completion of the first overtaking lane within this project.

The **Lagoon Creek** overtaking lane is also finished and is set to open to traffic in early 2024, weather permitting. Its opening was delayed as part of our traffic management plan, prioritising safety for both road users and construction crews during the Mylangra overtaking lane construction.

As part of these improvements, significant upgrades have been made to the Wynsley Lane and Lagoon Creek intersections, improving the safety of highway access for motorists.

The final overtaking lane, **Mylangra**, located 25 kilometres west of Dubbo, is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in early 2024, weather permitting. Drainage and other preparatory works have finished, with pavement work scheduled to commence later this year.

Upcoming traffic changes

For the safety of workers and motorists, we will have temporary lane closures in place from time to time along the Mitchell Highway between Dubbo and Narromine, however we are working to keep two lanes of traffic open wherever possible.

It is important that our customers have smoother, safer journeys not only when the project is complete, but throughout construction.

Please keep to speed limits and follow the direction of traffic control and signs. For the latest traffic updates call **132 701**, visit [livetraffic.com](https://www.livetraffic.com) or download the Live Traffic NSW App.

Thank you for your patience as we work hard to minimise impacts to customer journeys during the work.



Improving
safety



Saving
travel time



Increasing
overtaking opportunities



Project progress

Our site team has lost 67 construction days due to wet weather since the beginning of the 2022 weather events. Despite this, work continues to progress well on the project.

Great progress has been made at the Lagoon Creek and Wynsley Lane sites, with the finishing touches, such as signage and line marking, now complete. The use of one of these two overtaking lanes has improved safety and efficiency for all road users, while work at the Mylangra location is ongoing. We are also finalising other safety improvements, including widening the road, implementing a one-metre-wide centerline, and installing safety barriers.

Widened pavement

If you've taken a recent drive along this stretch of road between Dubbo to Narromine, you may have noticed the fresh road pavement. This new pavement is instrumental in widening the road for our road users during the construction phase. The widened pavement enables us to complete the project in stages, ensuring minimal disruption to our customers. As we complete each section, we're installing permanent pavement at every overtaking lane.

When the project reaches completion, there will be six kilometres of new pavement extending from Lagoon Creek to Wynsley Lane along the Mitchell Highway.

Tree giveaway and replanting

Our tree planting initiative has successfully finished, with 1440 native trees carefully selected from local nurseries. These trees have been strategically placed in locations that offer the greatest benefits to the local ecosystems. We have focused on planting trees that complement the existing native plant communities, including Travelling Stock Routes, nature reserves, riverbanks, and along the road corridor. By doing so, we aim to strengthen wildlife corridors and improve existing patches of native trees. We have also distributed native trees to local landholders, with the first distribution completed in September, an ideal time for tree planting.

Rehoming wildlife


Transport has been in close collaboration with a local ecologist from the start of the project to ensure the protection of endangered species during tree removal activities. We've taken measures to safely relocate any species whose habitats were affected, to nearby tree hollows. We've also taken the initiative to create 60 new tree hollows designed for local bird species. To fulfill the safety upgrades required for this project, it was necessary to remove selected trees along the roadside. The process involves specialised machinery that disassembles trees in sections, with utmost care to protect and relocate any wildlife found inside.

 **25,000 tonnes**
of road base laid

 **60 tree hollows**
for local birds

 **24 local**
suppliers supported

 **2 apprentices**
employed throughout the project

 **98% of the workforce**
located in Dubbo or Gilgandra

Our partnerships with Taronga Zoo and Westhaven

Transport is dedicated to leaving our communities in an improved state, and that includes our beloved animals. In 2022, we donated tree branches and root balls to Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo. These resources were used to improve the diets of elephants and rhinos, offering vital roughage. The root balls stimulate the elephants' natural behaviours and introduce new activities for them to explore.

In July of this year, we proudly established a partnership with Westhaven Disability Services in Dubbo. Together, we embarked on a tree planting initiative designed to balance the environmental impacts of our projects. The Westhaven team planted a total of 1440 trees over five days, which will provide enduring support to the local native plant communities. This collaboration has laid the foundation for ongoing Transport for NSW tree planting efforts.



Transport for NSW project team and WestHaven working group, planting native seedlings in Crown Lands at Brummagen



Allan Ryan, Environment & Sustainability Officer from Transport for NSW, delivering tree branches to keepers at Dubbo Western Plains Zoo

Giving back to our community

Our environmental team continually explores innovative methods for repurposing and recycling surplus construction materials. We've established a partnership with the Narromine-Dubbo Rifle Club to supply materials to bolster their safety facilities. This includes constructing a new wheelchair-accessible shooter's platform, strengthening safety amenities, and establishing an all-weather road for year-round club access.

Additionally, we've contributed 9000 tonnes of excess soil to neighbouring farmers. We take great pride in our support for local organisations and adjacent landowners, and we remain committed to collaborating with the local community.

Come along to our next BBQ

Come and meet the friendly team at our next Community BBQ. For more information, visit the project webpage or email us at western.projects@transport.nsw.gov.au



Rotary Club of Dubbo West volunteers at our December 2022 Community BBQ

Contact us

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



1800 167 499



western.projects@transport.nsw.gov.au



nswroads.work/d2n



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 167 499**.

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