RESTRICTIONS LIFTED FROM TARRO RAIL BRIDGE

Motorists no longer face restrictions crossing the Tarro Rail Bridge with all lanes now open to traffic after urgent repairs were completed earlier this morning.

Speed limit, heavy vehicle and lane restrictions were lifted for Newcastle and Port Stephens bound traffic on Wednesday night, however persistent rainfall halted the completion of southbound side work to relieve motorists driving towards Maitland.

Following days of wet weather, Transport for NSW crews were able to resume work at around 9pm last night to complete the necessary repairs to the deck of the bridge, which were required to reopen the bridge safely and without restrictions.

Transport for NSW Regional Director North, Anna Zycki said transport for NSW prioritised the urgent repairs required to return the road over rail bridge on the New England Highway to normal operating conditions as quickly as possible.

"Motorists and freight operators across the Hunter will experience smoother journeys after restrictions were lifted across all four lanes on Tarro Rail Bridge upon the completion of the critical repair work overnight," Ms Zycki said.

"Transport for NSW acknowledges the impacts these restrictions have had on motorists and thank the community and freight operators for their patience while we worked to return the bridge to normal operating conditions safely."

Further non-urgent works, including ongoing maintenance to the bridge, will be undertaken at a later stage and managed to minimise further disruption to traffic.

The extra passenger train services added to the Hunter Line between Newcastle and Maitland, put on to meet increased rail patronage while restrictions were placed on the bridge, will continue and be reviewed by NSW TrainLink this week.

The two additional daily weekday services in the AM and PM peak periods will run until further notice, as will the addition of express trains stopping at all stations.