

# Wallaga Lake Bridge - essential maintenance work


## Project update

November 2023



Looking east at Wallaga Lake Bridge

Transport for NSW will carry out major work on Wallaga Lake Bridge to repair the local icon. This essential maintenance work will ensure the bridge is safe well into the future for the local community and everyone who uses it.



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, the people of the Yuin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present, and their ongoing cultural connection to the region's mountains, coastline and waterways.

# The maintenance work

Following community consultation, we have gained a strong understanding of the key areas of interest and impacts the work will have on the community. The essential maintenance work is required to be carried out next year and we have reassessed our methodology to ensure the final option minimises impacts on the community, is safe for our workers and supports the community during the bridge closures.

This updated work methodology and schedule minimises the duration of the bridge closure and implements strategies to support the community while the necessary closures are in place.

The essential maintenance work will be delivered over six months, weather permitting, with work beginning in March 2024. The bridge will remain open with intermittent traffic control in place while the site compound is set up on Payne's Island and early work begins.

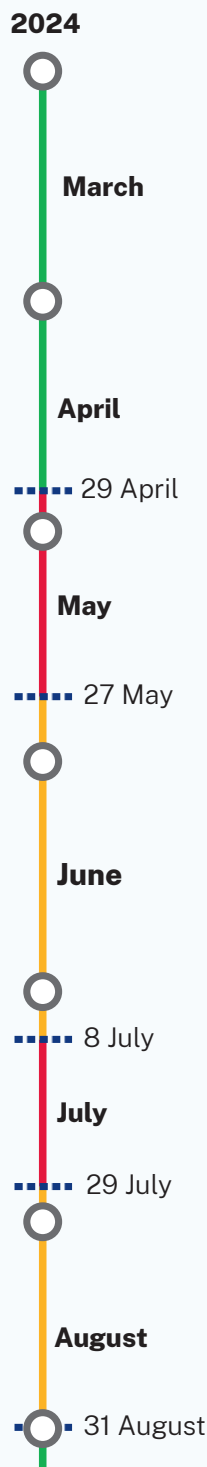
There will be two full closure periods under this new approach. The first closure will be in place from **Monday 29 April** for up to four weeks, weather permitting. This will allow the team to carry out work on the bridge abutments and piles.

The bridge will then temporarily reopen to all traffic and traffic control will be in place for six weeks, weather permitting. This will allow the team to prepare for the next stage of work.

The second full closure will be in place from **Monday 8 July** for up to three weeks, weather permitting. During this closure we will replace timber elements of the bridge including the girders, corbels and bridge deck.

During the second closure, night work will be carried out and impacted residents will be consulted about these impacts in advance.

Additional resources and crews will be brought in to complete the work efficiently, safely and to Transport quality standards. We understand the impacts a closure will have to the community and we will implement strategies to minimise these impacts during these times.



## Key points

From early March 2024 the community will notice the presence of workers and intermittent traffic control as the site compound is established and delivery of materials begins.

**Closure 1:** The bridge will be closed day and night for four weeks, weather permitting from **Monday 29 April**. Detour via Princes Highway, Cobargo.

The bridge will be open with stop/slow traffic arrangements in place from **Monday 27 May** for six weeks, weather permitting. Delays of up to five minutes.

**Closure 2:** The bridge will be closed day and night for three weeks, weather permitting from **Monday 8 July**. Detour via Princes Highway, Cobargo.

The bridge will be open with stop/slow traffic arrangements in place from **Monday 29 July** for five weeks, weather permitting. Delays of up to five minutes.

- Bridge open
- Bridge under traffic control, five minute delay
- Bridge closed day and night, detour via Cobargo

# Community support

We are committed to supporting the community while we carry out this essential work. What we heard during consultation has informed a range of strategies we'll put in place to support the community during the closure periods.

## Alternate transport options



During consultation the community expressed interest in alternate transport options being offered during the period when the bridge will be closed. We will support the community with a shuttle bus service during the two bridge closure periods. Bus routes and timetables will be released closer to work starting.

## Carry out work at night



The community suggested that maintenance work could be carried out at night, as seen on other bridge projects. Initial investigations and planning determined carrying out work at night would be unsafe due to the nature of the work and the unique low-lying characteristics of the bridge. We have since developed a plan which allows crews to safely carry out some of the work at night on the bridge deck, minimising the time the bridge needs to be closed.

During the second closure period work will be carried out during the day and night. We will work closely with nearby residents to mitigate impacts of construction noise.

## Maintain pedestrian access



We heard the community is keen to stay connected. Pedestrian access will be maintained for the duration of the project.

During the closure periods access will be limited to foot traffic only. Bicycles, prams and wheelchairs will be prohibited for the safety of the community. Pedestrians may experience a delay to their journey while an escort becomes available and workers ensure the site is safe.

## Travelling to school



During the consultation period, we heard travel to and from school and daycare arrangements are key priorities for the community. We are working closely with local school bus operators to develop solutions to minimise impacts on school children commuting to and from school. During the full closure period, alternate routes and changes to the timetable will be in place. Bus timetables and routes will be released closer to the work starting.

In addition, we have planned the second closure to fall over the July 2024 school holidays to reduce the time school children will be impacted.

## Local business and events



We heard the bridge closure will impact local businesses and local events. We have considered local events and peak tourist season in the revised timing of the work.

Additionally, we will work with event organisers and local businesses to identify opportunities to promote that a bridge closure at any time does not mean Bermagui is inaccessible or closed for business.

**More information will be released to the community early next year.**





Looking north at Wallaga Lake Bridge



## Want to find out more?

Drop in and see the team at Bermagui Country Club on **Monday 4 December 2023**. The team will be available between **12pm and 3pm**, and, **6pm and 8pm** to answer any questions.



## We need your help

A memorial plaque in memory of Joan and Gill has been found on one of the bridge elements. This element will be removed and replaced during the work, and we would like to return the plaque to the owners. Please contact us if you have any information.

If you have any questions of concerns, please contact the project team.



Project Infoline  
**1800 015 379**



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**transport.nsw.gov.au/wallaga-lake-bridge**



### Customer feedback

Wallaga Lake Bridge  
PO Box 477  
Wollongong, NSW 2520



Visit the online portal at  
**transport.nsw.gov.au/wallaga-lake-bridge**



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