



M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace

Project Update | Planning Approval

February 2023



Artist's impression of bridge over the Hunter River

The Australian Government and NSW Government are funding the 15-kilometre M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace project. The extension will boost the regional economy and improve connectivity, road transport efficiency and safety for local and interstate motorists.

The M1 Pacific Motorway extension is a major transport infrastructure project that will transform the way people move around the Hunter region while improving travel times and conditions for those travelling between Sydney and Brisbane.

Supporting around 2,700 jobs during construction, the project will create better access for key employment areas and support freight servicing the Hunter Valley mining industry, the Port of Newcastle and interstate freight – providing local, regional and national economic benefits.

Once complete, the project will remove up to 25,000 thousand vehicles from key congestion merge points along this corridor.

Planning approval to start work

The M1 Pacific Motorway extension project received planning approval from the NSW Minister of Planning and Homes on 8 November 2022 and the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water on 13 February 2023.

This major milestone clears the way for early work to begin in preparation for main construction later this year. The Conditions of Approval can be found on the Department of Planning and Environment's (DPE) website: pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/m1-pacific-motorway-extension-raymond-terrace

The project will be constructed and operated in accordance with the Ministers Conditions of Approval (CoA), the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Submissions Report.

Conditions of Approval

The CoA aim to prevent, minimise and/or offset adverse environmental and community impacts. The CoA ensure Transport and its contractors meet performance measures and reduce impacts to the environment and the community.

The CoA for the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace have targeted minimising impacts to native vegetation and threatened species, and mitigating impacts related to noise, water quality and flooding.

Other CoAs focus on mitigating impacts from existing soil contamination and reducing the impacts of construction traffic.

Early work activities

Early work for the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace will start over the coming months and involves minor work along various locations of the project.

Early work may include:

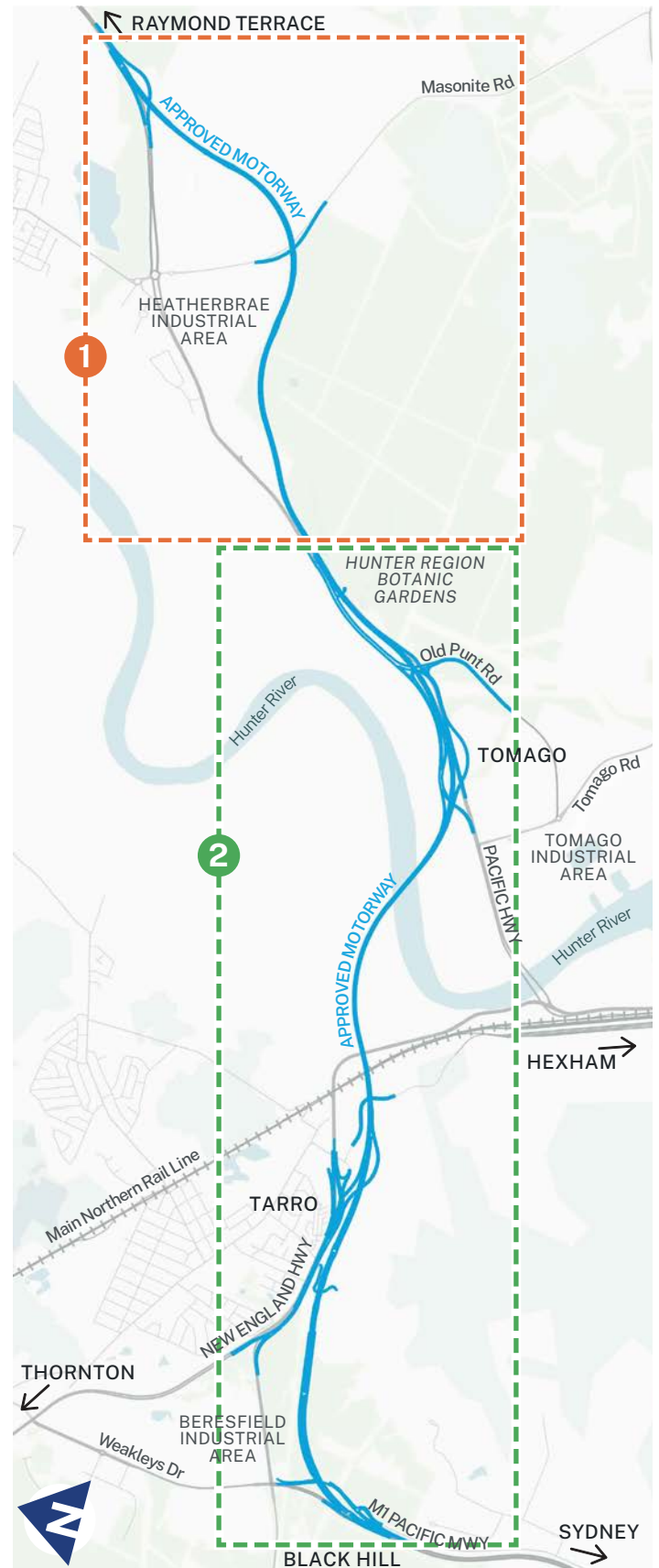
- Property adjustments including fencing
- Surveying
- Geotechnical investigations
- Public utilities adjustments
- Consultation with property owners about at-property noise treatments
- Establishment of minor ancillary sites and laydown areas identified in the EIS and submissions report
- Archaeological salvage in collaboration with Aboriginal stakeholders
- Monitoring of groundwater, surface water, and traffic and background noise
- Remediation of contaminated land.

Construction staging

As outlined in our submissions report, we have identified the opportunity for a staged opening of the project.

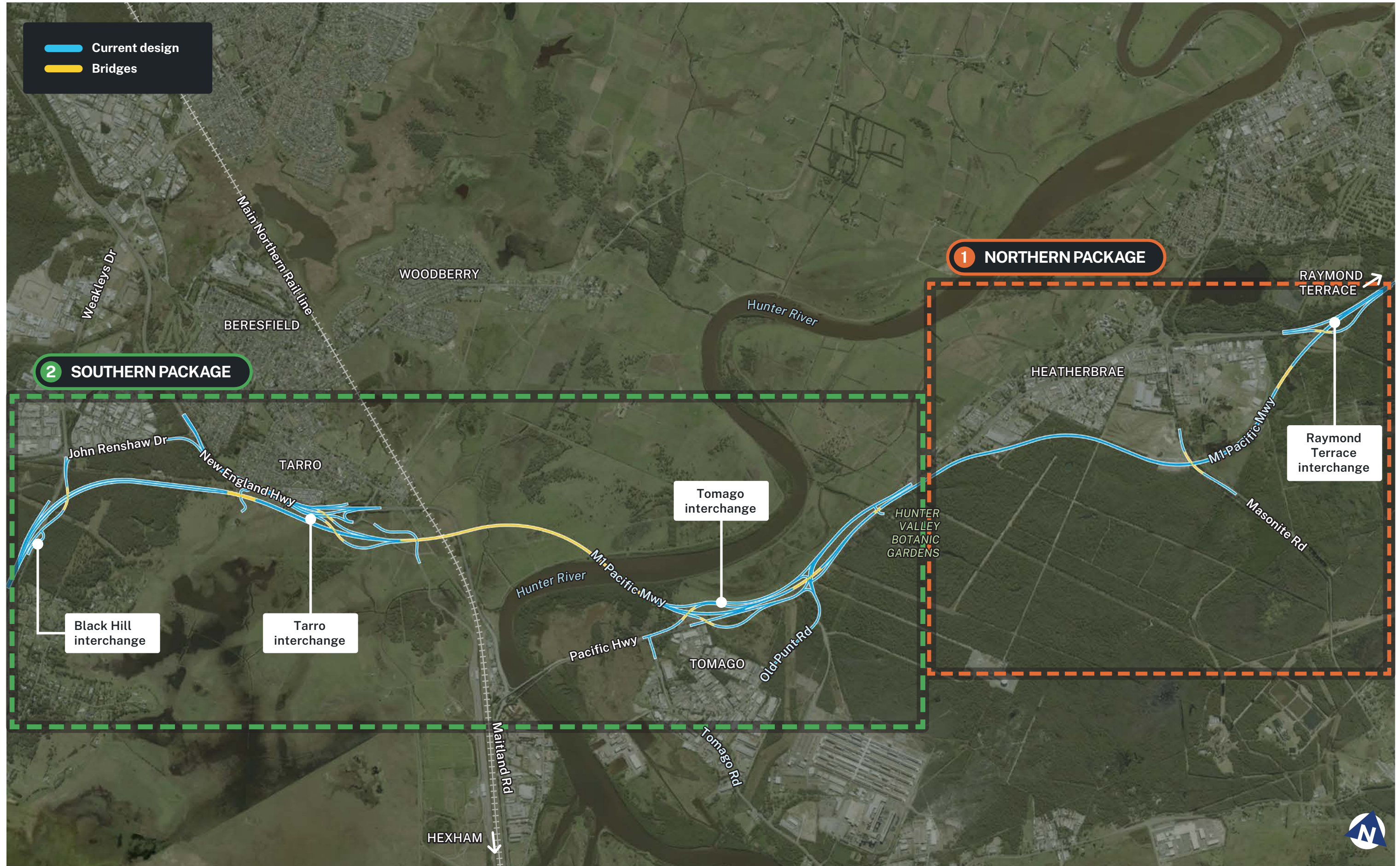
By engaging two major construction partners under two separate packages of work, motorists could access improved road networks earlier. The proposed two packages of work include:

- 1 Northern Package**
A 5-kilometre section that bypasses Heatherbrae
Delivery partner: Seymour Whyte
- 2 Southern Package**
A 10-kilometre section from Black Hill to Tomago
Delivery partner: John Holland / Gamuda Australia



We have included a map of the two packages of work on the following pages.

Project area



Final design subject to change following detailed design process

Geotechnical investigations

To gather information for detailed design we will continue to carry out geotechnical investigations. Geotechnical investigations are key for successful detailed design, particularly around high-risk areas such as building over the Hunter River. Understanding geotechnical conditions enables appropriate design of bridge piles and road foundations.

Utility relocations

Any businesses or residents in close proximity to the relocation works will receive notifications of any interruptions to utilities in advance of the work starting.

Additional noise monitoring

Additional monitoring of traffic and background noise levels in the project area has been carried out to ensure that the existing noise environment is well understood before construction starts.

This involved temporarily installing noise loggers in representative locations around the project corridor, as well as conducting traffic counts. This will ensure that construction noise impacts are accurately considered when preparing the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and when carrying out work during the day and night when required.

At-property noise treatment

To minimise the impact of noise on local residents, we are delivering at-property noise treatment to eligible properties. Noise treatment refers to architectural acoustic measures which aim to improve the sound resistance of properties, such as window and door upgrades.

At-property noise treatments supplement other mitigation measures outlined in the EIS and submissions report, including the installation of noise barriers.

Properties that are eligible for noise treatment were identified in the Noise and Vibration Assessment (Appendix H) of the EIS. Some additional properties were also identified in the submissions report.



Both reports are available on the project's interactive portal: caportal.com.au/m1rt

Prioritisation of the at-property noise treatment work will depend on such things as the property's locality to the project, expected construction schedule/staging, expected construction noise impacts and level of disturbance.

Installation of all treatments will take a considerable amount of time to complete. However, Transport will aim to install treatments as soon as possible prior to, and during the early phases of, major construction.

Eligible property owners will be contacted by phone, letter or doorknock by a Transport representative to discuss available options and arrange installation.

Transport will be validating the noise predictions once the project is open to traffic. We will continue to work with our stakeholders to ensure we have the right treatment in place.

Archaeological salvage

A series of Aboriginal cultural and heritage investigations have already occurred as part of the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace planning approval process.

The Aboriginal stakeholders have been heavily involved in the planning of the project and further archaeological salvage will be carried out with the Aboriginal community and heritage specialists.



Better movement of **freight**



Saving motorists up to **9 minutes** during peak time

2.6km viaduct over 
Hunter River and floodplain



Improve safety on the existing motorway and highway

Stay up to date on the project

We know building a major project in a large regional location like the Hunter will come with some disruption to day to day life. We understand you may have questions about the upcoming work, and we have a team of experienced people here to help.

We will keep you informed throughout every step of the project.

Sign up to our email distribution list to receive project updates.

Scan the QR code or go to nswroads.work/mlrt



Artist's impression looking north from Tomago Road intersection

Other projects in your area

We recognise there are other major infrastructure projects in this area and we are working closely with our Transport partners. We will continue to coordinate with the Hexham Straight Widening and the Lower Hunter Freight Corridor project teams to manage any future impacts.

Getting in touch with other projects:

Hexham Straight

☎ 1800 515 141

@ hexhamstraight@transport.nsw.gov.au

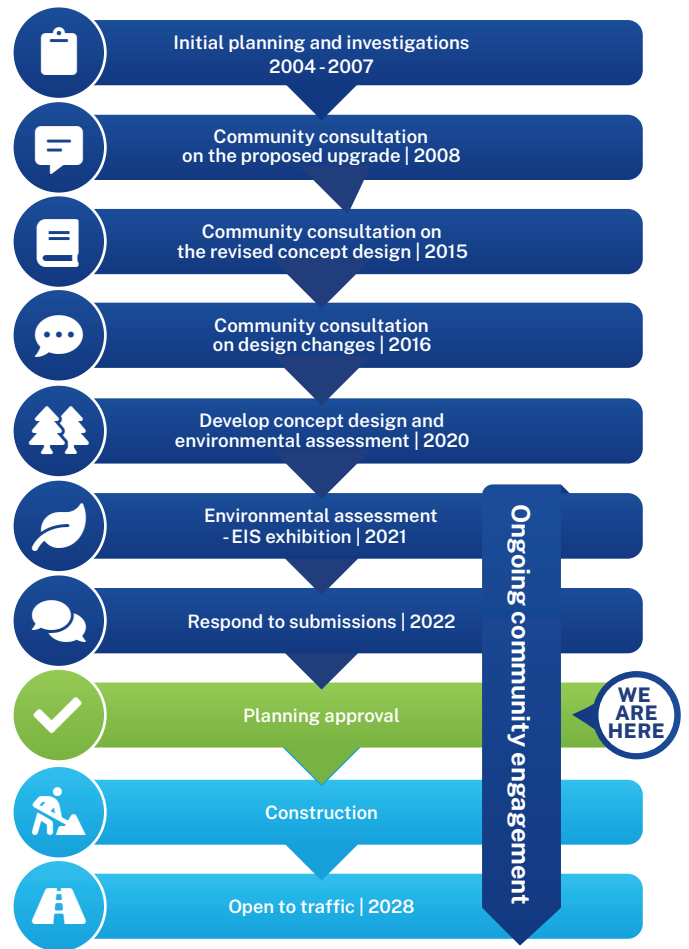
🌐 nswroads.work/hexham

Lower Hunter Freight Corridor

☎ 1800 837 511

@ corridors@transport.nsw.gov.au

🌐 <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/lower-hunter-freight-corridor>



*Timing for construction has not been confirmed and is subject to approval and funding availability.



Artist's impression of Masonite Road at Heatherbrae

Contact us

For more information on the M1 extension to Raymond Terrace or to join our mailing list (email or post), please contact our project team:

☎ 1800 094 895 (business hours)

@ m1rt@transport.nsw.gov.au

🌐 nswroads.work/m1rt

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