

Mitchell Highway upgrade Bathurst to Orange

Community Update

December 2023



New asphalt at the East Guyong project on the Mitchell Highway

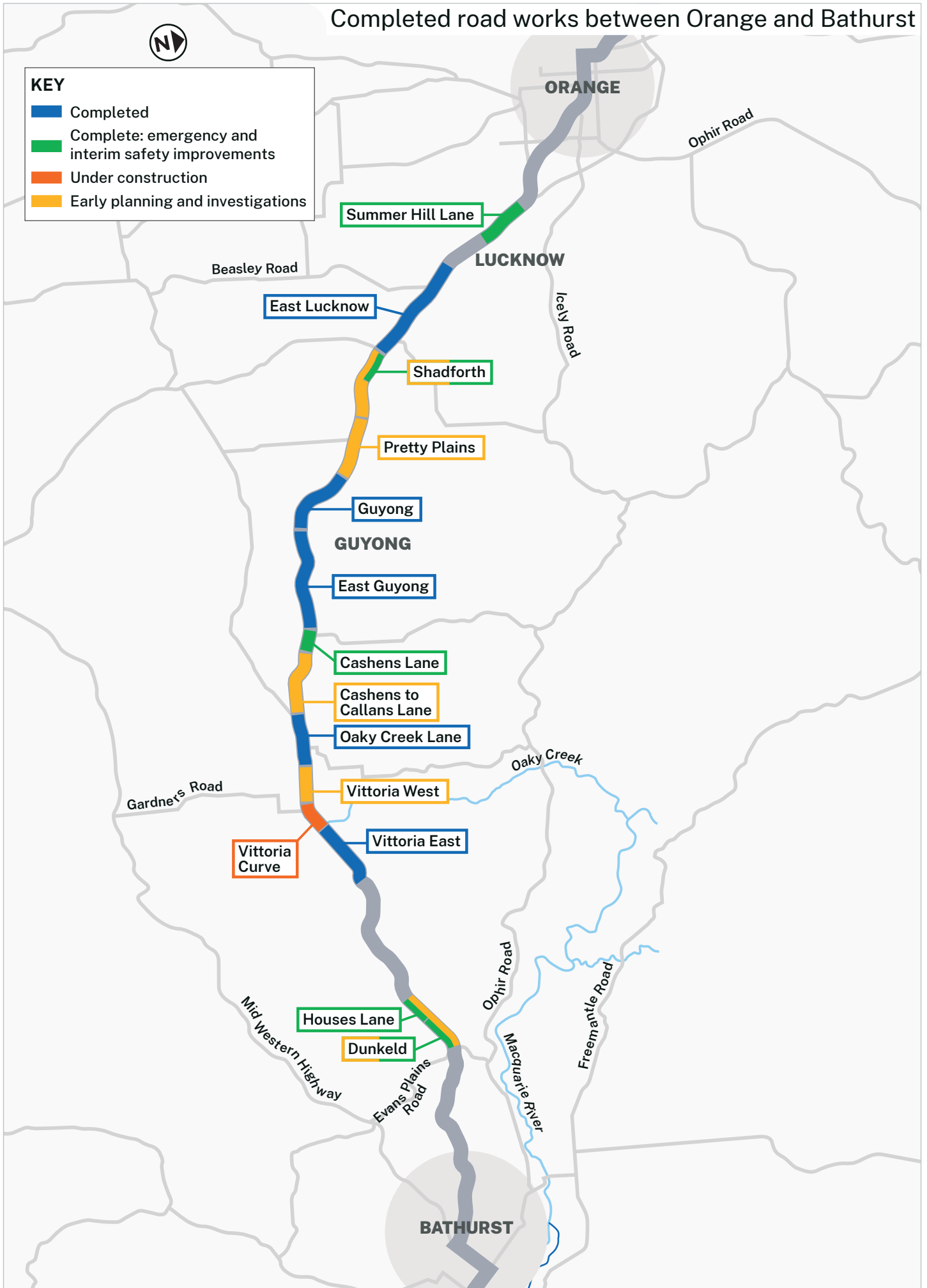
What a huge year it's been on the Mitchell Highway between Bathurst and Orange. Transport for NSW has been improving safety along a 50 kilometre section of the highway for the past few years with a number of projects now complete. The latest sections complete and now open to traffic include Vittoria East and East Guyong following the completion of Guyong in 2022.

[See over for map showing status of road works](#)

Transport for NSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past and present.



Completed road works between Orange and Bathurst



Project wrap

East Guyong

The road at East Guyong was heavily cracked, and in desperate need of rehabilitation to create a smoother, safer road surface for all motorists.

Work undertaken at East Guyong include:

- Upgrade of pavement
- Installation of flexible safety barriers in the centre median and on both sides of the road
- Widening of the road
- Turnaround bay sized to accommodate 26m B-doubles on Gordon Road
- Wider lanes, wider shoulders and safer intersections.

Work was completed December 2023.



Turnaround bay sized to accommodate 26m B-doubles on Gordon Road



A smoother, safer road surface for all motorists



East Guyong -before and after. Photos taken from Fenton Road looking West towards Orange.



Sustainable materials ensures more durable pavements

The East Guyong project utilised an asphalt reinforcing product called 'HaTelit C'. HaTelit C is a flexible mesh (grid) made from polyester yarns, that extends the life of asphalt pavements by reducing failures such as reflective cracking. This product comes in an eco option where the polyester yarns are made from 100% recycled PET bottles. This eco version of the product has the same strength properties as the original product.

From a sustainability aspect there are two advantages:

- This type of product extends the life of a pavement, meaning less CO2 emissions by reducing the need for raw materials such as asphalt (oil-based product).
- The recycled nature of the product is saving resources that could potentially end up in landfill.



The B-double turnaround bay off Gordon Road

East Guyong Facts

- 40,000 tonnes of asphalt was placed over the project
- 1,500 metres of steel barrier installed
- 6 kilometres of wire rope installed.

Vittoria

Saving Lives at Vittoria

The crash history at Vittoria is high – and these include fatigue related crashes, run off road and head on crashes. To combat this, we have three safety projects in the Vittoria area, that will not only improve safety for motorists, but will also improve efficiency.

Vittoria Curve

Safety work began in March to upgrade a 1.7 kilometre section of the Mitchell Highway between Bathurst and Orange, known as Vittoria Curve. Work will include road widening, vegetation removal and the installation of flexible temporary safety barriers. Crews also will install audio and tactile line marking (rumble strips) throughout the project and upgrade the access to the rest area car park.

The safety upgrade at Vittoria Curve is the latest step in a series of improvements along the Mitchell Highway between Bathurst and Orange and the work will create around 76 jobs during construction. The project is expected to be completed in November 2024.

Vittoria East

Safety work began at Vittoria East in July 2021 and was completed in December 2023.

Work included:

- Road widening
- Drainage upgrades
- Installation of safety barriers
- B-double turnaround bay near the Rocks

Vittoria West

Whilst still in the final stages of development, our Vittoria West project will run from just near the Beekeepers Inn to 1.8 kilometres West of Beekeepers Inn. There'll be a dedicated right hand turn lane at Gardiners Road, as well as ATLM and safety barrier installation.



We have three safety projects in the Vittoria area to combat the high rate of crashes



Safety work on the Mitchell Highway at Vittoria Curve

Pretty Plains

Work to construct a dedicated left turn for westbound vehicles at Miles Road will begin at Pretty Plains in February 2024 which will allow safer crossing at this intersection.

Safer roads for the Central West



Flexible safety barriers

Protect vehicles who have left their lane from roadside hazards and vehicles travelling in the opposing direction. Proven to reduce the severity of road crashes by 95%..



Rumble strips

Also known as Audio Tactile Line Marking (ATLM), rumble strips are small, raised bumps along the edges of roads to alert a driver when they are drifting out of their lane. They are proven to reduce the likelihood of run off road crashes and head-on crashes by 25%. Sometimes, rumble strips are milled into the pavement, especially in areas prone to snow or ice, so they aren't removed during snow-clearing.



Wider centrelines

Provide greater separation between vehicles travelling in opposite directions and allow more room for drivers to correct themselves and help prevent head on crashes.

Guyong

A 2.3 kilometre section of the highway at Guyong was completed in September 2022 and involved the construction of a westbound overtaking lane, road widening, widening of the centre median, and the installation of a flexible safety barrier and rumble strips. During the work, crews hit stubborn basalt rock and engaged in extensive blasting to enable the widening of the road. Another discovery during geotechnical work onsite was the presence of Naturally Occurring Asbestos, which crews were able to assess and safely manage.

In the five years to 2019, there were 17 reported crashes at this location, with three fatalities. These safety measures at Guyong have been put in place to address the risk and severity of crashes occurring along this section of the highway.



Safety measures have been put in place to address the risk and severity of crashes

Crunching the numbers at Guyong

- 7,000 metres of safety barriers installed
- 200 people employed
- 3,900 tonnes of asphalt placed
- 80 days lost to wet weather



Asphalt works completed

Emergency repairs and Improvements

Following severe weather at the end of 2021, major repair works were carried out between Bathurst and Orange.

Extensive patching and pothole work was carried out along the Mitchell Highway alongside safety upgrade work, including sealing road shoulders and widening centre lines.

Summer Hill Lane: Motorists are enjoying a One kilometre length of widened road with improved road shoulders and a widen centre line to increase space between oncoming traffic. Wide centre lines are estimated to reduce head-on crashes by 50 per cent.

Shadforth: 1.7 kilometres of the road has been upgraded with an enhanced centre line and smoother road surface completed as part of these works.

Cashens Lane intersection: A new road surface has been installed across 500 metres of this intersection.

Houses Lane: A new wide centre line has been created and road shoulders widened along a one kilometre section of the highway.

Continued maintenance works is occurring in response to adverse weather conditions across the region. Please slow down when you see our crews.

Safety in focus

Protecting the public and our workers whilst this program is underway is our number one priority. Transport for NSW acknowledges the disruption that road works can cause, and every effort has been made to prioritise traffic flowing (at a reduced speed) through our worksites.

As part of our focus on reducing end of queue collisions this means taking into consideration the distance between each of our projects, the overall number of stops, speed reductions and time it takes to drive if you are travelling between Bathurst and Orange.

Transport for NSW thanks the community for their patience during these important safety works.



Flexible safety barriers at Guyong

Contact us



Project Infoline
1800 167 499 (business hours)



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nswroads.work/Mitchell



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