



Australian Government



Newcastle Inner City Bypass – Rankin Park to Jesmond

Fact Sheet

Protecting biodiversity and reducing impacts on the environment

Transport for NSW seeks to avoid, minimise and mitigate the impacts of roads and other infrastructure on biodiversity and the environment during the development and design of its projects.

Transport aims to:

- avoid and minimise impacts first
- mitigate impacts where avoidance is not possible
- offset where residual impacts cannot be avoided

Transport has developed best practice guidelines for project managers, staff and contractors to use to help protect biodiversity during construction of road projects and ongoing maintenance works.

The guidelines provide a comprehensive range of measures to minimise the impact to flora and fauna, prior to and during the clearing of native vegetation and their habitats.



Two lorikeets on a carved hollow

The guidelines include protocols for the:

- protection of surrounding areas excluded from clearing
- staged removal of vegetation and habitat trees
- handling of fauna found during clearing
- weed and pathogen management
- re-use of vegetation and habitat features such as bush rock and hollows
- provision of supplementary fauna habitat such as nest boxes and carved hollows, and
- re-establishment of native vegetation

Biodiversity offsets

To compensate for impacts to threatened ecological communities and species as a result of the project, biodiversity offsets will be provided in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects (OEH, 2014).

Read more about how we manage **Biodiversity on major projects** on Transport's website.

What is biodiversity offsetting?

Where impacts cannot be avoided or mitigated, Transport looks to offset these impacts using the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme administered by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, the Biodiversity Conservation Trust and the Credit Supply Taskforce. This approach is consistent with NSW and Commonwealth planning and environmental laws.

The Biodiversity Offset Scheme is a market-based scheme, that provides:

- a consistent biodiversity assessment process for development based on the principle of no net loss
- a rigorous and credible offsetting scheme
- an opportunity for rural property owners to generate income by managing land for conservation.

Other environmental initiatives

In addition to biodiversity offsetting, a number of initiatives will be carried out to further mitigate impacts to the environment. A dedicated ecologist oversaw all clearing activities and project specific mitigation measures have been implemented.

Protecting threatened species

We are working with Landcare to salvage Black-Eyed Susan (*Tetradlea juncea*) from the project alignment to be replanted elsewhere.

Reusing felled timber

- trees suitable to be reused as bridge timber were identified and will be reused for Transport's heritage bridges around the Hunter region
- suitable felled timber will be reused onsite for fauna habitat and landscape rehabilitation

- Local Land Services have collected suitable felled timber for reuse in conservation projects
- suitable felled timber has been provided to local Indigenous people to produce cultural weapons and tools, including boomerangs, clap sticks, coolamons (wooden dishes) shields and bundhis (clubs), to enable cultural practices to continue to be taught and shared across community
- a bunya pine tree from the Jesmond roundabout has been donated to a local guitar-making school
- final landscaping will incorporate seeds from native vegetation collected by Landcare from the alignment where suitable.



Bunya pine tree donated to local guitar-making school

Building and connecting habitats

- additional habitat has been installed in the form of carved hollows, reuse of salvaged hollows and the installation of nest boxes
- various fauna connectivity structures will be installed to ensure connectivity between the adjacent fauna habitat, including fauna underpasses, rope bridges and fauna fencing
- new long-term Microbat roosting habitat will be incorporated into the new Dark Creek culvert.

More information

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact our project team:

Phone: 1800 818 433 (24 hours)

Email: RP2JCommunity@fultonhogan.com.au

Mail: Rankin Park to Jesmond project team,
PO Box 186, Waratah, NSW 2298

For more information about the project visit nswroads.work/rp2j or scan the QR code to visit our interactive portal.



Translating and interpreting service



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 818 433**



Bowls made from felled timber by Wood Turners of the Hunter