

# Nowra Bridge project

Project update | May 2023



Australian Government



Looking east over the Nowra Bridges towards Shoalhaven Heads.

## What we've been doing

Work over the last few months has included:

- Constructing the road approaches to the new bridge
- Realigning intersections on the Princes Highway with Illaroo Road and Bridge Road
- Installing street lights along the length of the new bridge
- Waterproofing and placing asphalt on the new bridge
- Completing construction of the new roundabout and footpaths on Illaroo Road
- **Officially opening the new bridge!**

### Did you know?

More than two thirds of the 2,200 workers on the Nowra Bridge project are Shoalhaven locals.



## Upcoming work

Work over the coming months will include:

- Continuing work on the eastern side of the Princes Highway near Bomaderry Creek to upgrade the footpath and safety barrier
- Continuing pavement work on the eastern side of the Princes Highway north of Illaroo Road
- Preparing for a traffic switch to enable median work at the northern end of the project
- Replacing the road pavement north and south of the existing bridges
- Replacing the asphalt surface on the middle bridge
- Carrying out roadworks on local roads, such as Scenic Drive and Pleasant Way
- Installing street lighting, signage and landscaping across the project area.

# Official opening of the new Nowra Bridge


On Thursday 23 February 2023, before the new Nowra Bridge opened to traffic, we invited the community to join us for the official opening.

More than 4,000 people took part in the historic moment for the Shoalhaven region and walked across the new bridge for the first time. We were welcomed to Country by Aunty Ruth Simms OAM, and witnessed an incredible dance and smoking ceremony by a local Indigenous dance group.


Local Elders, community members and students from local primary schools were invited to cut the ribbon to officially open the bridge, before we all enjoyed a twilight walk across the new landmark.



Scan the QR codes and head over to our website to look through photo and video highlights from the opening event.



Photos



Video



**Commemorative ribbons for the opening of the new Nowra Bridge**

We handed out commemorative ribbons to celebrate the opening of the new bridge, and we have a number still available.

If you would like a memento of this special occasion, please send us an email with your address and we will send the ribbons out to you.

Email: [NowraBridgeProject@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:NowraBridgeProject@transport.nsw.gov.au)





# Traffic moves onto the new bridge

Over the last weekend in February, traffic was moved onto the new bridge, marking a significant milestone for the project. All five existing lanes of the Princes Highway now flow across the new bridge in a temporary arrangement which will be in place until late 2023. The ultimate configuration will provide four lanes for northbound traffic, and three lanes for southbound traffic.



Crews worked at night to prepare for the traffic switch onto the new bridge.



All traffic is on the new bridge while work is under way to replace road pavement south of the existing bridges.

## Upgrading the Princes Highway

Open to traffic

Pavement and medians

Final traffic switch

Finishing work

Demobilisation

Project completion

The new bridge has opened to traffic, but there's still plenty of work ahead. The next steps over the coming months will involve replacing the road pavement approaching the two existing bridges, and resurfacing the middle bridge.

To extend the life of the pavement on the busy Princes Highway, full depth pavement replacement is taking place. The new pavement is designed to last 40 years, although the top layer, also known as the wearing course, may be replaced in this time. This reduces future costs, scale of future work and traffic impacts.

Pleasant Way is closed while we work on the southbound lanes of the Princes Highway south of the river. Pleasant Way will be converted to a cul-de-sac and a left-in slip lane will be constructed.

Work to upgrade the pedestrian paths across the project area, including new east-west connections under the bridges, is continuing and landscaping work has begun in some areas.

Scan to explore photos of the project throughout construction.



Left: Workers lay the first layer of asphalt on the bridge.



Right: Installing the expansion joints at the northern end of the new bridge.

## Shearwater Way sets a new record

We're continuing to collaborate with our partners, Fulton Hogan and Shoalhaven City Council, to extend our innovations in asphalt technology.

Building on the success of the Albion Park Rail bypass project in 2021, the Nowra Bridge project has increased the recycled content in asphalt mix to a record 85 per cent.

Around 3,580 square metres of asphalt was used to construct the new local road, Shearwater Way. The asphalt mix incorporated multiple recycled materials, including glass, and a large amount of slag which is a by-product of smelting ores and metals.

The mix used on Shearwater Way set a new record for the total recycled content in asphalt mix, exceeding Transport for NSW's recycled content target of 15 per cent.



An early morning in January, overlooking Shearwater Way.

### Did you know?

To increase the longevity of the new bridge, the bridge deck has been sealed with a sprayed bituminous waterproofing membrane to prevent water damage to the concrete bridge deck and the embedded steel reinforcement.



## Next steps for the historic Nowra Bridge

The historic Nowra Bridge was retired from road traffic in February when the new bridge opened.

Before the historic bridge can be repurposed and reopened as a dedicated pedestrian and cyclist bridge, a program of maintenance and repair work will be carried out.

This program of work will begin shortly after major work on the Nowra Bridge project is completed in late 2023 and is expected to take 18 months to two years. Pedestrians will be detoured via the shared path on the new Nowra Bridge during this time.





Visit the [historic Nowra Bridge repurposing](#) webpage to sign up to receive updates on the project's development.

[nswroads.work/OldNowraBridge](https://nswroads.work/OldNowraBridge)



View of the historic Nowra Bridge from Wharf Road.

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