



Pacific Highway improvements at Hexham (Hexham Straight Widening)

Project update

August 2023

nswroads.work/hexham



Traffic on Maitland Road

The Australian and NSW governments are investing in the upgrade of the section of Maitland Road known as Hexham Straight, between the Newcastle Inner City Bypass and Hexham Bridge, to improve safety and traffic flow for the 50,000 motorists who use this road every day.

Late last year, Transport for NSW formed an Alliance with Georgiou, Daracon and SMEC to design and build the project.

Major construction has begun and the project is expected to be open to traffic in 2026.



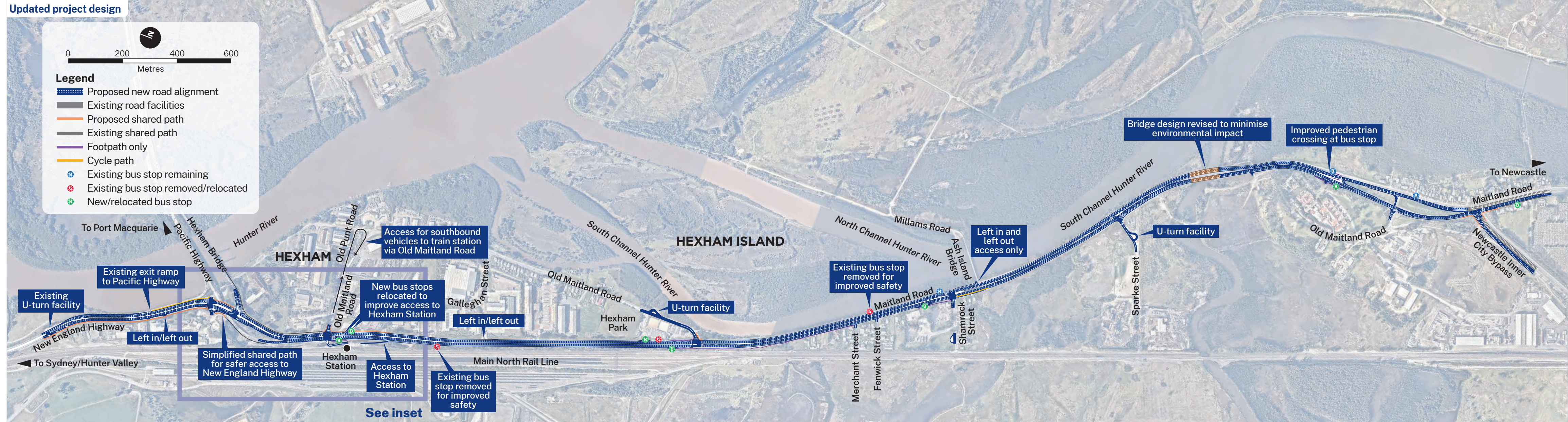
Reduce travel times by up to 7 mins during morning peak



Improve traffic flow for more than 50,000 road users daily



The Project is expected to open in 2026



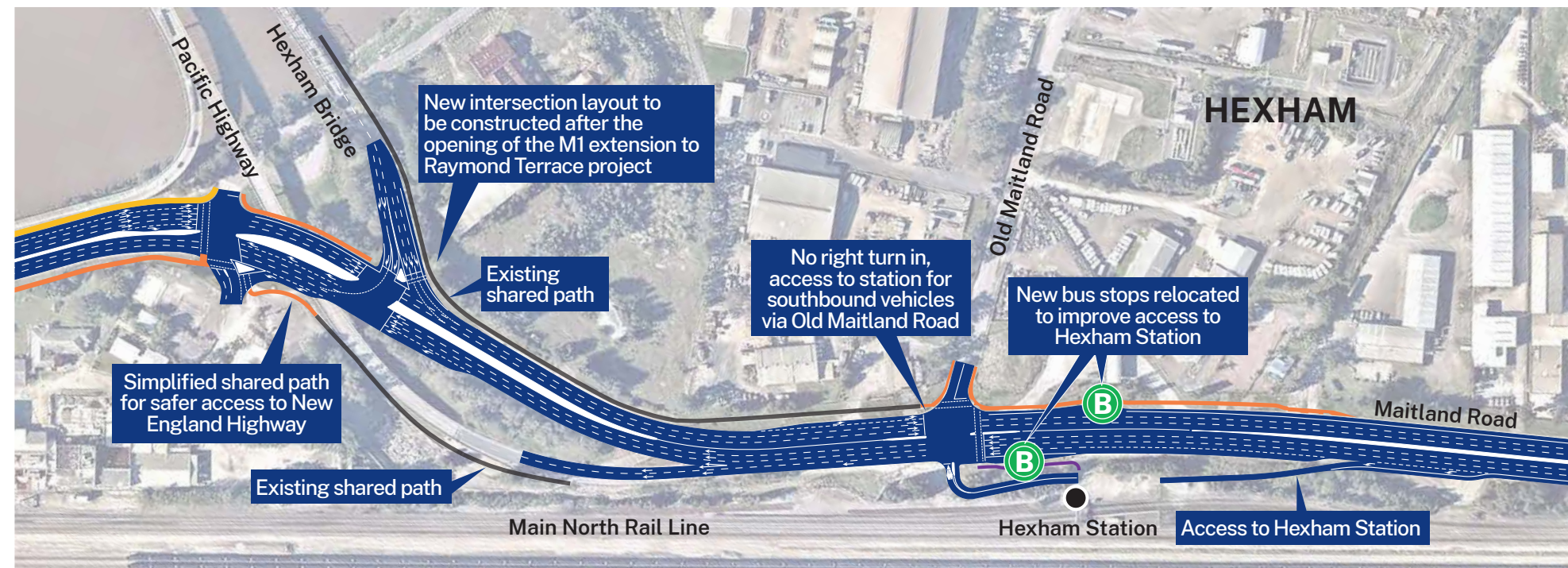
Features

The project includes:

- Upgrades to the six kilometre section of Maitland Road between the Newcastle Inner City Bypass and Hexham Bridge
- Widening of the highway from two to three lanes in each direction
- Demolition of the existing Ironbark bridge and construction of two new bridges at Ironbark Creek
- Relocating utilities
- U-turn facilities on Sparke Street, Shamrock Street and Old Maitland Road
- Minor intersection upgrades and property adjustments
- Improved cyclist and pedestrian connectivity



Maitland Road near Hexham Bowling Club



Artist's impression of the project travelling northbound past Hexham Bowling Club

Benefits

The project will:

- Improve the connection between Newcastle and the New England Highway, M1 Motorway and the Pacific Highway
- Improve traffic flow and reduce delays for more reliable travel times
- Improve safety for all road users
- Support economic growth at key employment areas like the Port of Newcastle and Greater Newcastle.

Work underway

The project team started early works late last year, including geotechnical and utility investigations to help finalise detailed design and commence construction.

Other works include establishing site compounds, installing temporary fencing and barriers, carrying out minor vegetation clearing and environmental controls.

Work is being carried out from **7am to 6pm on weekdays and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays**, weather permitting. To minimise impacts to motorists, some of the work will take place during the night from **7pm to 5am**.

Upcoming work

In the next three months work activities will include:

- Ongoing site establishment activities, including setting up site compounds
- Environmental protection, mitigation and controls
- Installing long-term traffic controls on Maitland Road between the Inner City Bypass and the Oak Precinct

- Establishing a temporary bridge platform and construction access at Ironbark Creek
- Tree clearing along the project alignment.

Traffic

Because of the high volumes of traffic using Hexham Straight each day, there will be temporary lane closures and reduced speed limits during the work to keep road users and workers safe.

A speed limit of 60 kilometres per hour has been introduced through the work zone for the safety of workers and road users.

Please keep to the sign posted speed limits and follow the direction of traffic controllers. For the latest traffic updates, call 132 701, visit livetraffic.com or check the Live Traffic App.

Cyclist access

Access will be maintained for cyclists and pedestrians in both directions during construction.

Once complete, cyclists will have access to a dedicated two-metre wide shoulder for cyclists; new shared user paths, a replaced cycle lane at the A1 Pacific Highway and Maitland Road intersection with a new, safer signalised pedestrian crossing.

Compound site

The project's main offices and engineering site have been established at Sandgate. We will also establish site compounds near Ironbark Bridge on Maitland Road and north of Hexham Bridge.

Fast facts

- Maitland Road was one of the earliest roads in Hexham, running from the end of Hunter Street in Newcastle to Maitland and Singleton from the 1840s
- Today Maitland Road carries some of the highest traffic volumes in the Hunter
- The upgrade will provide about 750 jobs over its life cycle
- The project will use:
 - 39,000 tonnes of asphalt
 - Over 7km of safety barriers, including guard rails/concrete barriers and wire rope
 - 48km of line-marking
 - 49km of temporary line-marking
 - 75,000 cubic metres of imported pavement gravel
 - 35,000 cubic metres of excavated material.



SCAN ME

Visit our online project portal to view an interactive map showing the project design, project animation, documents and much more. We will regularly update the portal during construction.

You can also sign up to our email distribution list to receive project updates. Scan the QR code or go to nswroads.work/hexhamportal

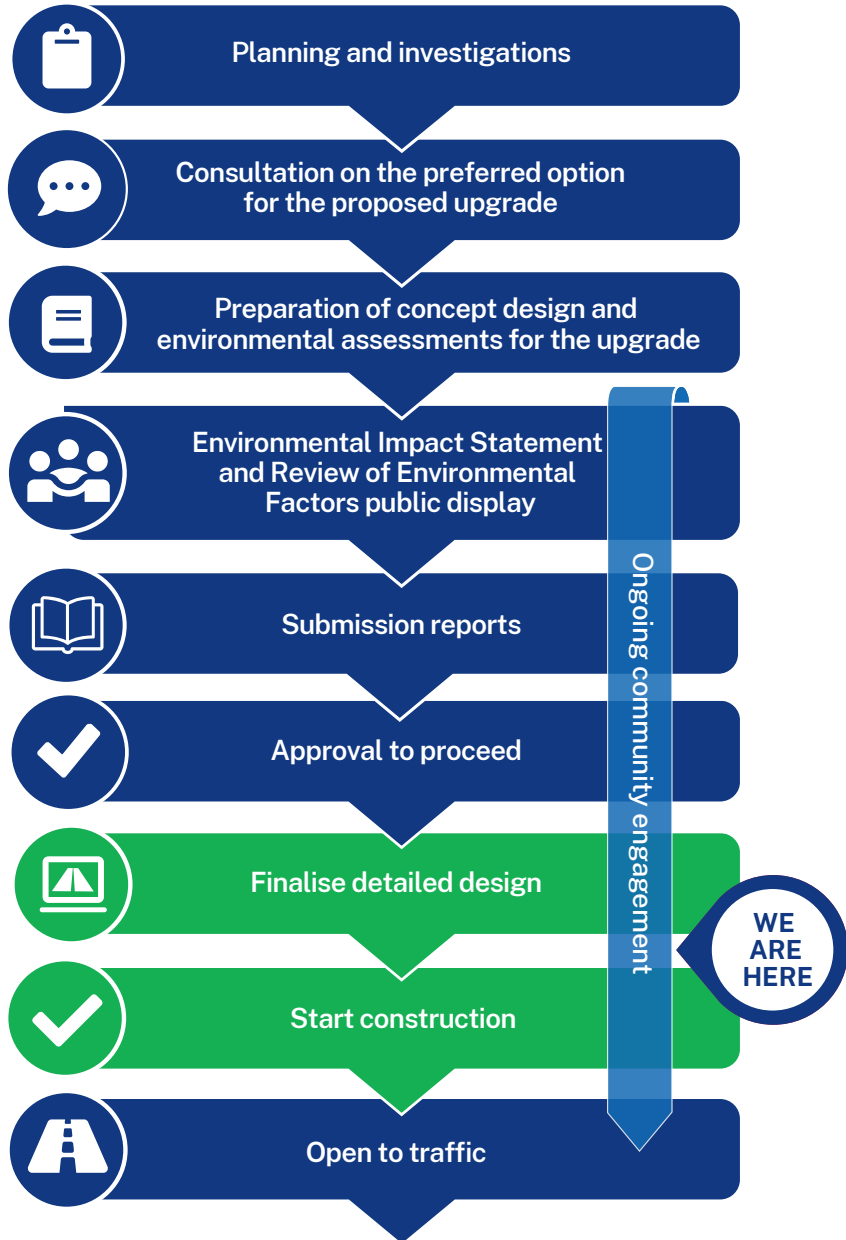
Traditional custodians of the land

The project area sits in the traditional lands of the Awabakal people with Wonnarua country to the west and Worimi country to the north. Representatives from the Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council held a smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country to help spiritually cleanse all project participants and the project area before main construction commenced.



Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council representatives and our project team members at a smoking ceremony

Project progress



Keep in touch

We know building a major project will come with some disruption to day to day life. We are committed to minimising the impacts of this important work as much as possible. We understand you may have questions about upcoming work and are available to help. During construction, you can contact the project team 24 hours a day, seven days a week on the community hotline. Or if you would like more information, please contact the project team:

☎ 1800 515 141

✉ hexhamstraight@transport.nsw.gov.au

🌐 nswroads.work/hexham



Translation and interpreting service

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