

Jenny Aitchison

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads



Dr Michael Holland

Member for Bega

Parliamentary Secretary for Health

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health

Media Release

New timeline for work on Wallaga Lake Bridge

Tuesday, 21 November 2023

The NSW Government has reduced the length of time Wallaga Lake Bridge will need to be closed for essential maintenance after Transport for NSW acted on feedback from Bermagui residents and businesses.

Announcing the timeline for the important safety work, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Jenny Aitchison confirmed early work was expected to begin from 4 March 2024 when a site compound is due to be set up on Payne's Island.

Full closures have been limited to two periods – from 9 April 2024 for up to four weeks, weather permitting, and from 8 July 2024 for up to three weeks, weather permitting.

After the first full closure, the bridge will then temporarily reopen to all traffic under stop/slow traffic control for six weeks while teams prepare for the next stage of work. During this period, scaffolding will be installed around the bridge and utilities on the bridge will be temporarily relocated.

During the second closure period, some work will take place at night and Transport for NSW will consult with impacted residents in advance.

Improvements to the modified repair plan mean all the timber elements of the bridge deck will now be replaced, allowing for some repair work to be done safely from the bridge deck after hours, and reducing the full closure period.

After the second closure periods, the bridge is expected to reopen with stop/slow traffic arrangements in place from Monday 29 July, 2024 for five weeks, weather permitting, while teams install handrails and complete finishing works.

Community members will have an opportunity to ask questions about the new repair plan when Transport for NSW hosts two public drop-in sessions next month and members from the project team can answer any questions.

The drop-in sessions will be held on 4 December, 2023 at Bermagui Country Club from 12pm to 3pm and 6pm to 8pm.

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Jenny Aitchison said:

“Local MPs Dr Michael Holland and Kristy McBain have been advocating for a reduced timeframe for these essential safety repairs on the bridge and I am pleased Transport for NSW has been able to accommodate this.

“Transport for NSW are working closely with local school bus operators to develop solutions to minimise impacts on students commuting to and from school, including alternate routes and an amended timetable during the two full closure periods.

“Transport for NSW is also investigating options to provide shuttle buses, maintain pedestrian access and promote the access options available for Bermagui to help businesses and local events.”

Member for Bega Dr Michael Holland said:

“This maintenance work is needed to ensure the bridge can continue to serve as a vital link for people who live, work and visit this wonderful community.

“I am pleased to see Transport for NSW has acted on feedback from locals and amended their repair plan to better suit the needs of local communities.

“Transport have assured me they will keep the community informed of any changes to repair plans and challenges like inclement weather may pose during repair work.”