

Newell Highway Upgrade – New Dubbo Bridge

Community Update

November 2024



Australian Government

BUILDING AUSTRALIA



A sunset view from the New Dubbo Bridge project

Together, the Australian and NSW Governments are investing \$263.2 million in the New Dubbo Bridge project to improve access across the Macquarie River, especially during flood events.

As we prepare to farewell 2024, it's a good time to reflect on the significant milestones the project has achieved during the year.

Work has progressed well and the project is on track to be finished by late 2026. Piling for the new bridge is complete, all 123 Super T girders have been delivered,

we're more than halfway through the concrete deck pours, and halfway through installing stormwater drainage across this project.

Our progress would not have been possible without your support, and we thank you for your patience and consideration during construction of the New Dubbo Bridge project.

In this update

- Bridge naming update
- Megapipes events
- Economic benefits for Dubbo
- Workforce development update
- Construction progress
- The hands behind the bridge

Bridge naming update

Transport for NSW, in partnership with Dubbo Regional Council and the Dubbo Community, is excited to share an update on the naming process for the bridge. We have completed the first phase of consultation, where the local First Nations community suggested appropriate Wiradjuri names. We are now working to determine a shortlist of these names through a fair and transparent assessment process.

As we move forward, we will soon invite the wider community to provide feedback on the shortlisted Wiradjuri names and suggest other potential names. This next phase of consultation is expected to open in early 2025. Transport will announce the dates through a media release, social media, and local advertising. During this period, an online engagement portal and hard copy feedback forms will be available for residents to share their input. We look forward to the community's participation in selecting a name that reflects the heritage and spirit of Dubbo.

The New Dubbo Bridge in numbers



89 piles



19 piers



123 Super T girders



2,100m³ of concrete for the deck



18,400 tonnes of asphalt pavements



1,400 metres of concrete parapet



3,900 tonnes of reinforcing steel

Take a look at some of the great images we've captured of the bridge during construction



Megapipes events

We have hosted three events onsite involving local children. As part of the project, we will be installing large stormwater pipes underneath the new road works. To involve the community in this important infrastructure project, we invited local children to visit the project site and place their handprints on the pipes. In a gesture of respect and celebration of the rich heritage of the Aboriginal community in Dubbo, we used traditional Aboriginal paint colours: red, yellow, and black. These colours are on the exterior of the stormwater pipes, symbolising our respect for the traditional owners of this land and their deep connection to our region. Additionally, we painted the Aboriginal flag using handprints on the pipes as a tribute to their culture and history.



A student leaves her mark on a stormwater pipes at one of the megapipes events



Meet Elliot Price: Senior Project Engineer on the New Dubbo Bridge project

What do you do on the project?

I'm responsible for the intersections at River/Bourke and Thompson/Wylandra streets.

Why did you move to Dubbo?

We relocated from Brisbane in 2022 to work on the Mindyarra Regional Rail Maintenance Facility. My wife and I prefer regional areas, and Dubbo is perfect for our growing family.

What do you enjoy about Dubbo?

We love the close-knit community, friendly people and the changing seasons.

How do you spend your weekends?

We're into DIY projects and renovations. We also enjoy family time at the farmers markets and outdoor activities with our kids.

Are you involved in any local groups?

I used to play indoor soccer but now focus more on family time since our youngest was born.



Elliot Price, Senior Project Engineer
Transport for NSW

Economic benefits for Dubbo

The New Dubbo Bridge project is playing a crucial role in the economic and social development of the Dubbo community.

- **Job creation:** the project has created local jobs and attracted skilled professionals.
- **Local spending:** new residents boost the local economy through purchases and services.
- **Community growth:** families like Elliot's are enrolling their children in local childcare and participating in community activities.
- **Support for local businesses:** increased population and project activities provide steady customers for local businesses.

Workforce development update



Subcontractor forum

In March 2024, we hosted a forum for subcontractors to discuss diversity and challenges in the construction industry, focusing on both current and future targets.



Women in construction networking group

In April, we launched a networking group for women in construction, featuring monthly coffee catch-ups to build confidence and leadership skills. In September, it evolved into Women in Construction Lean In Circles.



Women in construction industry talks

In April, we presented a Women in Construction industry talk to female students at Gilgandra High School. Following this, in June 2024, we extended the initiative to Dubbo Christian School. The talks focused on opportunities in the construction industry, including various roles, apprenticeships and traineeships available through Vocational Education and Training (VET) pathways.



Trade Readiness Pre-Employment program

Across June and July, we ran a program for eight women to gain practical skills like operating an excavator and using hand tools. Participants also received guidance on resume writing and interview preparation from our female staff.



Women in construction leadership and development workshops

In September, we launched a women in construction leadership and development program targeting women with less than five years of experience in construction or related industries. This initiative, a partnership between Dubbo Regional Council, Transport for NSW and Abergeldie, includes two workshops. The first workshop was held in November 2024, and the second in March 2025.

We are pleased to report continued progress on our project:

- **60%** local/regional staff
- **24%** Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- **19%** under the age of 25
- **8** women in non-traditional roles
- **10** certified Aboriginal businesses
- **30** skilled tradespeople engaged on the project since 2022



Participants of the Women in Construction workshop at the Western Plains Cultural Centre in Dubbo

Construction progress

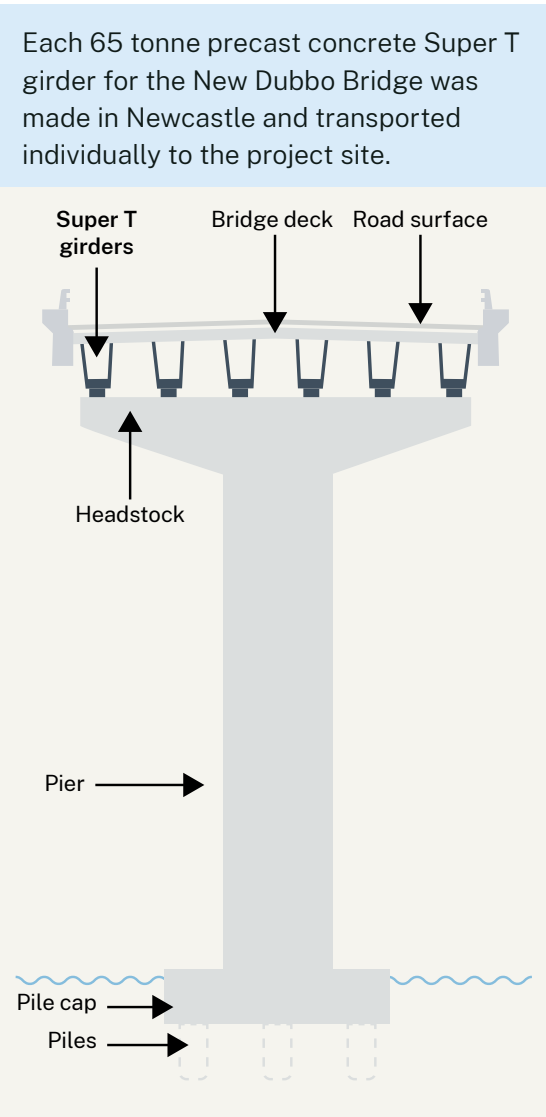
The largest bridge in the Central West is on track

The project is moving forward with significant achievements. The bridge piling is now complete, with piles reaching depths of up to 65 metres. In terms of concrete pours we've already used 4,800 cubic metres. For stormwater drainage, 2,000 metres have been installed, with 3,000 metres remaining to be completed.

All 123 Super T girders have been delivered, and 60% of them have been installed, demonstrating significant progress in the bridge construction. Additionally, roadworks and pavement construction are ongoing at the Wylandra/Thompson Street and River Street intersections.

We are pleased with the progress and remain committed to keeping the community informed as we move towards the project's completion. Thank you for your continued support and patience.

How are Super T girders made and transported to the project site?



Step 1

A reinforced cage is assembled and inserted into the steel casting bed or mould.



Step 2

Steel strands are then installed in the bottom half of the girder and pretensioned using hydraulic jacks. Concrete is poured into the casting bed using a crane.



Step 3

Once cured, the pretensioned strands are cut, and the girder is lifted out of the casting bed using a crane. When the strands are cut, they transfer forces into the girder, enabling it to adequately carry the weight of the bridge deck once installed.



Step 4

The girder is then transported from Newcastle to Dubbo on an oversize, over-mass truck, with escort vehicles. This trip is planned outside peak times to minimise impacts on motorists.



Step 5

Once delivered to the Dubbo project site, the girder is unloaded into the laydown area using the massive 250-tonne crane named Bridget.

The hands behind the bridge

Our diverse workforce of over 700 people to date, with more than 60 per cent local workers, is key to our success. We proudly engage local and Aboriginal businesses, reinforcing our commitment to community support. From apprentices to engineers, each team member brings passion to the project, paving the way for a better Dubbo.



The hands behind the bridge: A collection of construction photos showcasing our dedicated team onsite at the New Dubbo Bridge project

Contact us



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nswroads.work/ndb

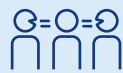


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