



New England Highway – Singleton Bypass

Project update – Site preparation

July 2024



Transport for NSW acknowledges the Wonnarua/Wanaruah people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past and present.

The Australian and NSW Governments are investing a total of \$700 million to build the Singleton Bypass. The bypass will improve travel times, freight efficiency and safety for local and interstate motorists.

ACCIONA has started site preparation work along the project corridor, ahead of main construction work starting later this year.

Early work activities are continuing on the project, which are required to inform the detailed design and finalise the construction schedule.

Site preparation work

This work establishes construction site access and facilities including site offices. It will involve vegetation clearing, fencing, earthworks, asphaltting, adjustments to road line marking, temporary drainage installation and placement of temporary concrete barriers.

Early work progress update

Over the past few months ACCIONA has carried out early work activities along the proposed bypass alignment.

Early work activities include:

- additional site survey to map the project alignment and environmentally sensitive areas to ensure project complies with environmental approvals

- survey of the Hunter River to help plan construction activities and to ensure local aquatic species and river embankments remain protected
- geotechnical investigations using drilling rigs to obtain core samples of soil and pavement to inform the detailed design
- Utility investigations to map electricity, communication, sewer and water services
- installing temporary fencing to ensure the work area is safe

Transport for NSW (Transport) has been completing its early work utility relocations concurrently with ACCIONA.

We have successfully completed significant utility relocations including:

- electrical (including raising of the 66kV electrical poles and conductors at Orchard Lane)
- telecommunications (including the relocation of the Sydney to Brisbane optical fibre main under the Hunter River and McDougalls Hill)
- gas main along Orchard Lane
- relocation of Sydney Trains communication cable in May.

The successful completion of this work by Transport and our subcontractors has ensured main work on the bypass can proceed without delay.





Geotechnical investigations near Army Camp Road

Our work hours

Our standard work hours are **Monday to Friday** between **7am** and **6pm** and **Saturdays** between **8am** and **1pm**.

Some of this work will need to be carried out at night to minimise impact to traffic. We will keep the community informed of any work being completed outside of our standard work hours.

Conserving habitat for native species

Before clearing of native vegetation starts on the project, our environment team has been working with ecologists to oversee the carving of replacement hollows in trees next to the project in accordance with Transport's Biodiversity Policy. The hollows provide shelter for native fauna including birds, gliders, possums and bats that may be displaced during construction and operation of the project.

The recently carved hollows are already in use, with a Squirrel Gilder (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) taking up residence in a recently installed hollow.

Thank you to the Bloomfield Group, for allowing Transport to install the replacement hollows on their land.

Final project design

The detailed design for the Singleton Bypass is currently being finalised in preparation for major work to start. The final design will be available to view later this year.

Looking ahead

We will be providing the community with an update about the project once the design is finalised and our construction schedule has been confirmed.

Establishment of site compounds is expected to start in July in preparation for earthwork and bridge building activities to start later this year.

The bypass is expected to open to traffic in late 2026, weather permitting.



Squirrel Gilder in a hollow installed as part of the project

Contact us



Project information and 24-hour construction response line **1800 991 254**



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