

Community Update | January 2024

Newell Highway Upgrade – New Dubbo Bridge



Australian Government

BUILDING AUSTRALIA



Aerial view of the New Dubbo Bridge project over the Macquarie River in Dubbo

Construction update

The project, which is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments is progressing well, with key features starting to take shape. Significant progress has been achieved over the past 18 months on the project.

Utility relocation work is well underway. We have completed the gas relocations, and expect to complete the telecommunications, sewer, watermain and electrical relocations by Mid 2024.

The project achieved a significant milestone before Christmas by laying the first of the 123 girders using our 60-metre crane named Bridget – check our story in this update on how she was named!

These girders (nearly 34 metres in length) are stored in a designated area onsite, and will be lifted into place between two headstocks, creating the 14-metre width of the new bridge deck.

The girder installation is expected to continue throughout 2024, with the next phase involving the pouring of the bridge decks on top of these spans that are six girders wide.

Our work schedule for the next three months includes:

- Finishing installation of the piles along River Street between Brisbane and Bourke Street
- Progressing with pile caps, columns, headstocks and girder landing on the eastern side of Macquarie River
- Initiating piling in the river and temporary working platforms
- Continuing with the remaining utility and service relocations
- Starting earthworks on the western side of the riverbank
- Continuing stormwater drainage installation at the Bourke and River Street intersection.

Girls Can Too

In September 2023, we were excited to have 15 female students from Macquarie Anglican Grammar School (MAGS) at the project site during their industry day as part of the Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP) Girls Can Too Program. This program offers students the opportunity to engage in enjoyable and hands-on practical activities, designed to provide them with real life experiences in trades.

Within this program, students have the chance to explore various traditionally male-dominated trades, such as welding, construction, electrical work, fabrication, and automotive skills, while gaining entry-level expertise.

During their industry day at the New Dubbo Bridge, the students received an introduction to the project, participated in an induction, enjoyed a site tour, and wrapped up the day with an exciting and competitive bridge-building competition!



Girls Can Too at the New Dubbo Bridge site

Dubbo Public School wins the Name the Crane Competition

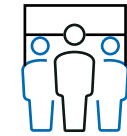
Our 60-meter-tall crane, which will play an important role in the construction of the New Dubbo Bridge, now proudly bears the name “Bridget.” This clever and imaginative name was suggested by 12-year-old Robert Lennox, a student at Dubbo Public School.



Name the Crane Competition



310 employed
on the project



36 workers
through the Aboriginal Participation in Construction Program



92 workers
residing in the local area

Other projects Transport is delivering in the area

16 Regional Cities Services Improvement Program

Launched in October 2023, Dubbo has an additional 112 new bus services weekly as a result of the improved bus routes and simpler timetables. Whether you catch the bus to get to work or medical appointments, to do your shopping or visit family and friends, getting around Dubbo has got a lot easier – more weekday services and for the first time new services on Sunday and public holidays.

For new Dubbo timetables visit transportnsw.info/routes or use the Trip Planner to plan your trip at transportnsw.info.

Dubbo Station Upgrade

This upgrade is being delivered as part of the Transport Access Program, which aims to provide station precincts that are accessible to people with a disability, limited mobility, parents/carers with prams and customers with luggage. Completion of the project is on track for completion in early 2024.

Taronga Western Plains Zoo's Elephant and Rhino's get a snack

In preparation for the new intersection of Wylandra and Thompson Streets in Dubbo, we removed a number of Sheoak trees from the site to facilitate the construction of new pavement and the installation of sewer and water utilities.

The branches were very welcomed by Taronga Western Plains Zoo to provide additional food for the Black Rhinos and Elephants. We understand the importance of trees to the community, and we are committed to collaborating with the community and key stakeholders, including Dubbo Regional Council, to finalise the landscaping design for the project.

It's worth noting that Transport has previously partnered with Taronga Western Plains Zoo during the Upgrade of the Mitchell Highway between Dubbo and Narromine. We donated tree branches, trunks, and root balls, which were used as supplementary food for Elephants and Rhinos, as well as for landscaping within the zoo grounds.



The project team with the branches being delivered to Western Plains Zoo

Sista's in Trade Program

In August 2023, we extended a warm welcome to five more participants of the Bamara Sista's in Trade program for their work experience component. During the week-long experience, participants were mentored by our experienced team in traffic control, general laboring, community relations and earth moving.

Funded by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, the Bamara Sista's in Trade program has successfully led to three permanent employment opportunities for participants within the New Dubbo Bridge Project.



Sista's in Trade at the New Dubbo Bridge site on River Street

Regional Rail – Mindyarra Maintenance Centre

The NSW Government is replacing the ageing NSW regional rail fleet of XPT, XPLOER and Endeavour trains, and constructing a purpose-built maintenance facility in Dubbo, named 'Mindyarra' that will support the new Regional Rail fleet and stimulate the regional economy.

With an estimated 200 jobs required during construction and 50 ongoing roles during maintenance, the project provides opportunities for long term employment and skills development.

Major work to build the Mindyarra Maintenance Centre in Dubbo has been completed, with some minor work to continue in early 2024, including installation of key equipment, building fit-out and landscaping.

Some of the benefits of the New Dubbo Bridge project

Regional involvement



The New Dubbo Bridge project has been providing opportunities for local contractors and suppliers to tender for work. The project currently has 48 local businesses engaged and has been working with 8 certified Aboriginal businesses.

People and employment



In addition to improving traffic congestion in and around Dubbo, the project will provide opportunities for skills, training, and development of the local and regional community. There have been 29 skilled trades engaged on the project since the project started in 2022.

Embracing diversity



The project has created a working environment that utilises the contribution of staff from diverse backgrounds and experiences, with 62% of staff identifying as local or regional and 29% identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, 24 % under the age of 25 and there are 6 women in non-traditional roles on the project.

Career growth and opportunities



The consistency of work on the project has enabled skills development, training, and career development. Employees also have the option to move to other construction projects once the New Dubbo Bridge project is completed, providing opportunity for ongoing employment.

Benefits of partnering with local business



Improved productivity and competitiveness



Upskilling of local workers and consistency of work enabling continuous career development



Business growth by enhancing workforce skills and expansion



Experience to enable involvement in other construction projects.

Contact us

Please contact the project team if you have any questions or would like more information:



1800 803 818



dubboprojects@transport.nsw.gov.au



nswroads.work/dubbo



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Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call the project team on **1800 803 818**. The interpreter will then assist you with translation.

January 2024

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