

Newell Highway Upgrade – New Dubbo Bridge

Community Update

May 2024



Australian Government

BUILDING AUSTRALIA



Artist's impression of the New Dubbo Bridge over the Macquarie River

The Australian and NSW Governments are jointly funding the New Dubbo Bridge project. Transport for NSW and Abergeldie Complex Infrastructure are working together to deliver the project.

Construction is progressing well on the New Dubbo Bridge project. The 660 metre bridge is starting to take shape and we have started working on Pier 3 in the Macquarie River.

Following recent notification letters we have received requests for more updates on the construction progress. In response to this feedback, we have provided an extensive May community update.

In this update

- Construction progress
- Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program
- How we are building the new bridge
- Community projects
- Beautifying Wiradjuri Park
- Bridge naming process
- Spotlight on our people.

Help name the New Dubbo Bridge – details inside

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

What we've been up to

- We've completed 80 per cent of the piling work
- Construction of pile caps, piers and headstocks ongoing
- We're building access roads on the west side of the river
- Utility adjustments and infrastructure work for telecommunications are complete
- Water main lines and stormwater culverts are installed and tested
- We're currently conducting CCTV inspection of completed stormwater lines.

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

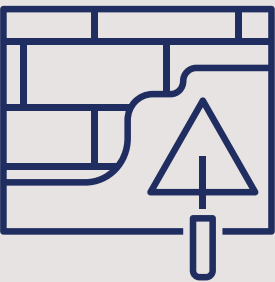


Bridge facts

- The new bridge features one lane for traffic in each direction and is around 660 metres in length
- It includes 20 spans, which are the individual sections between supports
- Supported by a total of 89 piles
- Features 19 piers, including two in the Macquarie River and 17 on land
- Contains 123 concrete girders, each weighing up to 63 tonnes.

Did you know?

To increase the longevity of the new bridge, the bridge deck will be sealed with a bitumen waterproof spray to protect and prevent water damage to the concrete bridge deck and the embedded steel reinforcement.



Upcoming work

- Continued work on the piers in the Macquarie River
- Piling and utility adjustments on River Street
- Continued construction of pile caps, piers and headstocks
- Ongoing sewer works.



169,315
work hours to date



688
tonnes of earth moved from site



60%
of major utility relocations complete

A spotlight on our people

It takes people to build a bridge. We currently have a workforce of around 650 people with more than 55 per cent of workers from the local area.

The project has engaged 74 local businesses and 8 Aboriginal businesses since major construction started, and this remains a key focus for us as the project moves through construction.

From our apprentices and trainees to our plant operators, environmental officers, engineers, surveyors and traffic teams, everyone plays an important role in getting the job done.

We are striving to build a legacy of incredible teamwork and look forward to making Dubbo a better place to live and work.



Collection of construction photos featuring our dedicated staff onsite at the New Dubbo Bridge project

Building the new bridge

Understanding the bridge construction process

Constructing the new bridge involves several stages, including piling on both land and in the river, pouring concrete for the piles, lifting bridge components into place, asphaltting, and completing bridge finishing work such as installing guardrails.

The importance of piling

Test piling commenced in November 2022 to identify and address any potential issues early in the construction process. The installation of the first permanent pile for the new bridge was successfully completed in May 2023.

Piling is the initial stage in bridge construction, establishing a strong foundation for the structure by transferring weight deeper into the ground where there is more support.

Piles are large steel columns which are partially filled with concrete. Inserting piles into the ground can typically take between one to two days depending on their length and size. The length varies based on ground conditions and they are driven or bored into the ground using cranes, piling rigs and vibrating hammers. A total of 89 piles, a combination of driven and bored, will be used to support the New Dubbo Bridge.

Bridge components

Many large precast concrete components including bridge girders and parapets are needed to build the bridge. A pilecap connects the piles to piers, crucial structural supports that rise above ground level.

Girders are concrete beams that support the bridge deck. A total of 123 girders will be installed on the New Dubbo Bridge.

Road surface

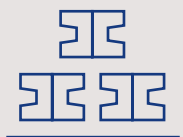
Asphalt paving is the final major construction activity before the bridge can open to traffic. It's one of the more visible elements of the project and benefits road users by providing a smoother and more reliable journey.

Steps to build the new bridge

- 1** Piles are driven into the ground and are partially filled with concrete. Concrete columns are then built on top of the piles to support the girders
- 2** Building components are manufactured at precast yards, transported to site and lifted into place
- 3** Concrete is poured to form the bridge deck, providing the surface for vehicles to travel on
- 4** Asphalt is laid over the concrete deck, providing a smooth driving surface and protecting the structure underneath
- 5** Final work includes white line marking on the road for traffic guidance and installing guardrails to ensure safety



1,500m³
total concrete poured to date

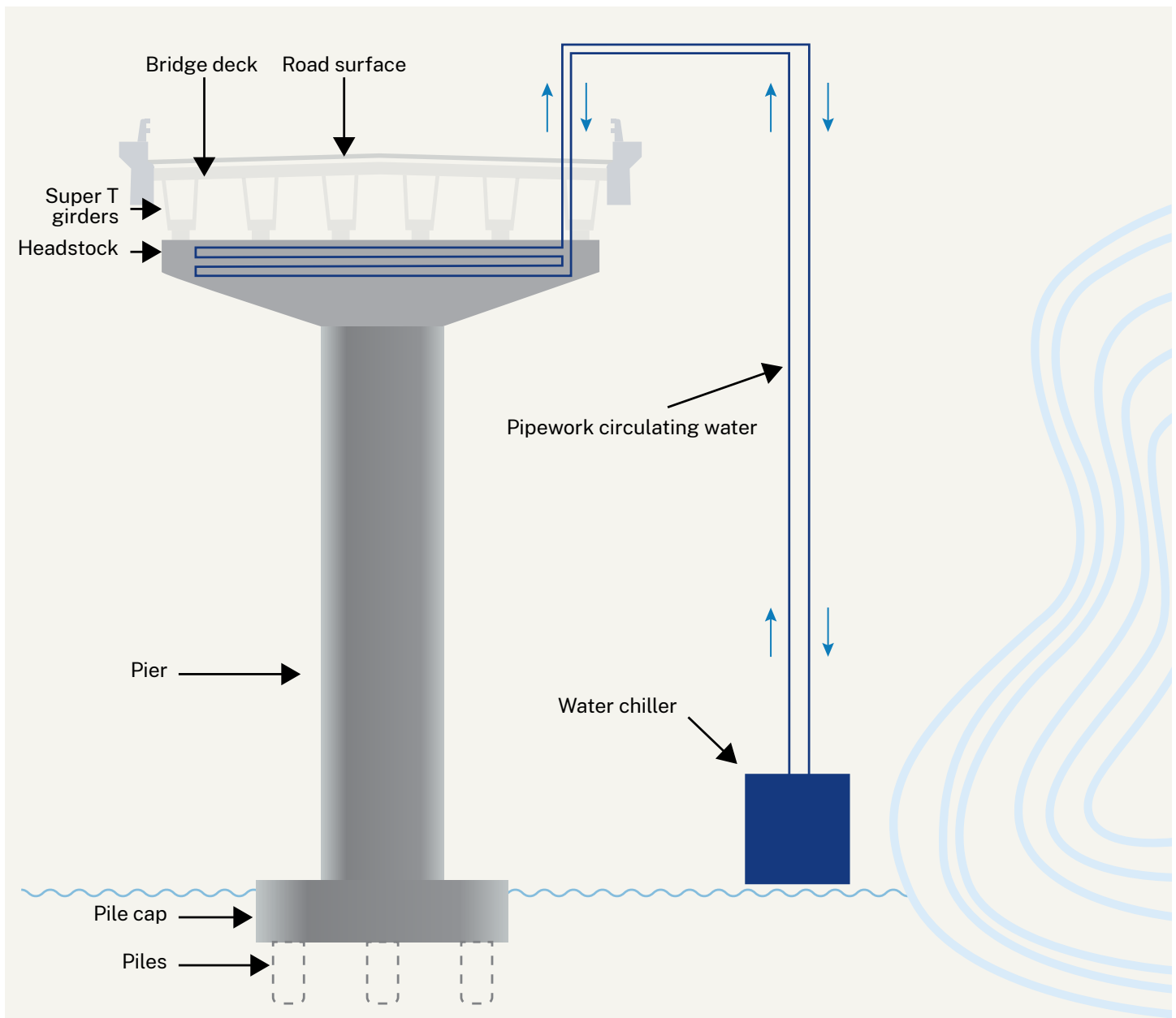


24
girders have been placed



56
piles have been completed

Process of cooling concrete



When pouring thick concrete, it can reach hot temperatures as it sets, which can weaken the strength and structure. To keep the concrete strong, we need to cool it down internally while it hardens.

The cooling concrete method that Abergeldie are using on the New Dubbo Bridge project is transforming bridge construction by efficiently cooling concrete with water filled pipes. This method ensures a better quality concrete by maintaining a steady temperature during the curing process, crucial for projects like the New Dubbo Bridge. In hot climates like Dubbo, this system combats high temperatures during curing, enhancing the overall construction quality.



Improving
road safety



Reducing
travel times



Boosting
freight productivity

Empowering communities: Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program

The Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program, an initiative of the NSW Government, aims to provide training and employment opportunities within the construction industry. Transport for NSW (Transport) programs focus on supporting local jobs, under-represented groups, and creating pathways for job readiness and employment in the construction sector.

The New Dubbo Bridge project has offered a variety of training programs to address skills gaps and build the future skill base of the Dubbo area and the NSW construction workforce.

We're pleased to report significant progress, including:

- 55% of staff identifying as local or regional
- 23% identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 19% under the age of 25
- 45 female participants in non-traditional roles
- 8 certified Aboriginal businesses engaged
- 67 skilled trades engaged on the project since its inception in 2022.

Celebrating Aboriginal participation: building a legacy of diversity in Dubbo



1.5%

of total
project
spend



23%

Aboriginal
people
employed



8

Aboriginal
businesses
engaged

The New Dubbo Bridge project is ahead of schedule in Aboriginal participation targets, exceeding our employment goals. This highlights our commitment to a diverse workforce in Dubbo, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents make up 16 per cent of the population.

Since the project started, Transport and Abergeldie have prioritised consulting with the local First Nations community. We've already spent \$2 million on Aboriginal employment, exceeding the required 1.5 per cent of total project spend on Aboriginal participation.

Initiatives like prequalification workshops for Aboriginal businesses and Sistas in Trade program, have resulted in tangible employment outcomes. While we're proud of our progress, we recognise this success stems from early consultation and we remain committed to collaboration until project completion.

Did you know?



More than half

of the **650** workers on the New Dubbo Bridge project are Dubbo locals



The new bridge will bypass

10 intersections



The new bridge will be the

largest bridge

in the Central West

Bridge naming process

Transport will work closely with Dubbo Regional Council (Council) and the Dubbo community to name the New Dubbo Bridge.

At the Ordinary Council meeting held on Thursday 23 November 2023, Council resolved:

- *That Council's preferred name for the new Dubbo Bridge shall be a First Nations name relevant to the location and/or function of the bridge such as a crossing place on a river.*
- *That this resolution of Council be the focus of the community consultation undertaken by Transport for NSW.*

Transport supports Council's resolution in preferring a First Nations name to recognise the significance of First Nations heritage in the New Dubbo Bridge project footprint and to celebrate the considerable First Nations participation on the project.

Transport and Council will have distinct roles in the bridge naming process. Transport will carry out the community consultation, firstly seeking suggestions of appropriate First Nations (Wiradjuri) names for the New Dubbo Bridge from the local First Nations community.

We will then invite the wider community to provide feedback on the Wiradjuri names shortlisted by the local First Nations community and/or make other suggestions.

Following the consultation, we will compile a comprehensive consultation report for Council's consideration. The report will include all naming suggestions received and a summary of the feedback from the First Nations and wider community consultation including preferred names.

It is Transport's position that Council, as elected representatives of the community they serve, is best place to recommend a suitable name from the suggestions received during community consultation.

You can read more about the bridge naming process in our fact sheet and FAQs, which are available on the project website at nswroads.work/ndb

We look forward to working collaboratively with Council and the community in the bridge naming process.

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Steps in naming the New Dubbo Bridge

- WE ARE HERE
- Step 1:** Transport will engage with the local First Nations community to seek suggestions of appropriate First Nations (Wiradjuri) names for the New Dubbo Bridge.

Step 2: A panel of representatives from the local First Nations community will determine a shortlist of Wiradjuri names through a fair and transparent assessment process.

Step 3: Transport will invite the wider community to provide feedback on the Wiradjuri names shortlisted by the local First Nations community and/or make other suggestions.

Step 4: Transport will ask representatives from the local First Nations community to assess any further First Nations names suggested during community consultation.

Step 5: Transport will collate all bridge name suggestions and a summary of the feedback from the First Nations and wider community consultation including preferred names into a consultation report for Council's consideration.

Step 6: Council will review the consultation report, endorse a proposed name for the bridge, and then recommend that bridge name to Transport.

Step 7: Transport will approve the name recommended by Council provided that it has community support, is consistent with the Geographical Names Board naming guidelines, and complies with Transport's signage requirements.

Step 8: The approved bridge name will be jointly announced.

Beautifying Wiradjuri Park for the future

Wiradjuri Park, adjacent to the Macquarie River in Dubbo, will undergo a transformation as part of the New Dubbo Bridge project. This initiative aims to honour the rich heritage of the local First Nations community and meet the broader needs of the community.

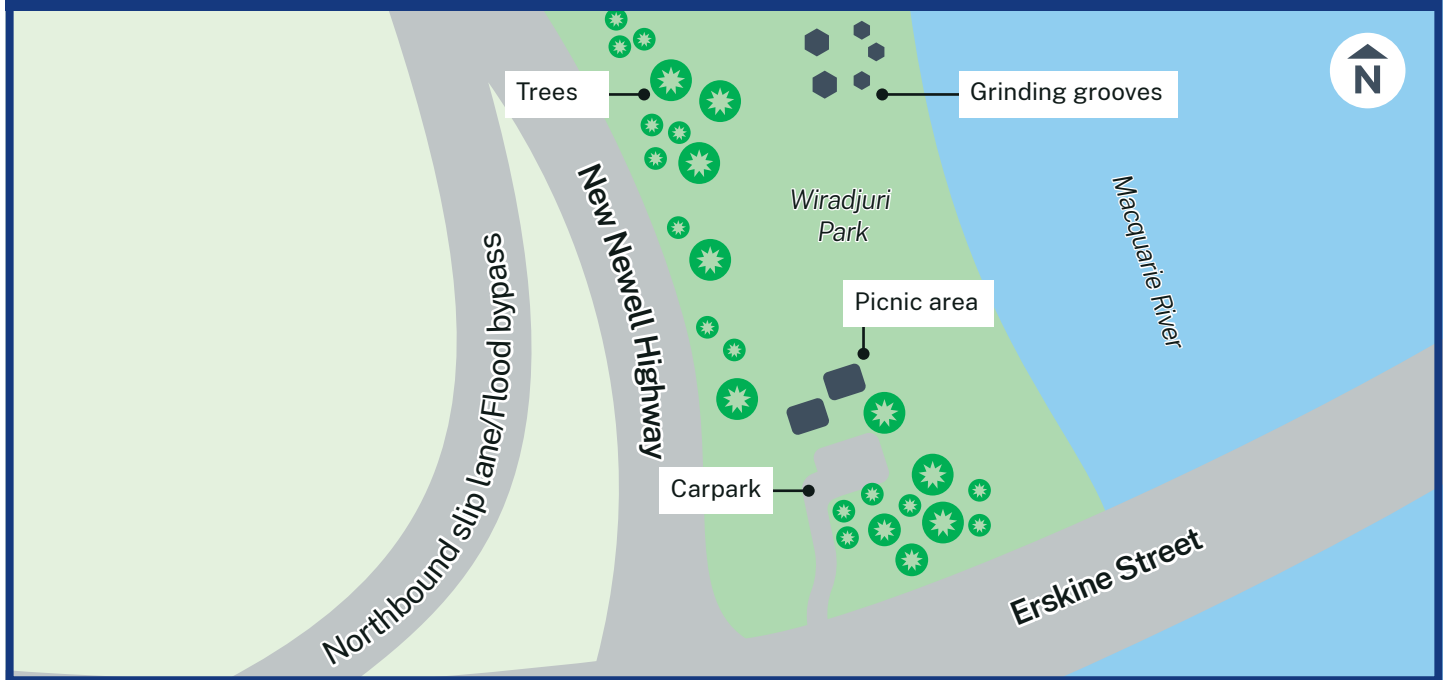
Since Thursday 18 May 2023, Wiradjuri Park has been temporarily closed to facilitate the construction of the New Dubbo Bridge project and is expected to reopen at the completion of the project in 2026.

We will seek input from the local First Nations community on the concept design for the park's beautification, to ensure that the upgraded park

respects and celebrates the area's First Nations cultural heritage while enhancing its usability.

As the beautification planning progresses, additional consultation will also take place with nearby residents and other stakeholders including Dubbo Regional Council and the wider community. This consultation will ensure that the beautification of Wiradjuri Park reflects the collective vision and aspirations of the Dubbo community. Stay tuned for further updates as we continue this journey of beautification.

Map of current Wiradjuri Park concept design



Contact us



1800 803 818



dubboprojects@transport.nsw.gov.au



nswroads.work/ndb

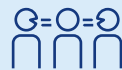


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