

# Newell Highway Upgrade – Heavy Duty Pavement Upgrade, Narrabri to Moree

## Frequently Asked Questions

February 2024



### Where is the project up to?

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) awarded the main construction contract to Fulton Hogan Pty Ltd. This includes four sections along the alignment (sections 1, 2, 3 and 5).

Construction commenced in July 2022 and is now well underway in all four sections between Narrabri and Moree. The project will take approximately three and half years to complete with an anticipated completion date in early 2026.

Due to consecutive years of above average rainfall prior to commencing construction, combined with flooding in the area since the project commenced, there has been significant impacts to the project.

To ensure we meet our commitment of completing the project on time and on budget, TfNSW has modified the design in Sections 1 and 2 (where work has not yet commenced). There will be no impacts in Sections 3 and 5 already underway.

The project will continue to deliver on its key safety and productivity features including intersection improvements, widening of road shoulders, the provision of five additional overtaking lanes, as well as a new formal rest area at section 1.

Transport will continue to keep residents and the community informed.

### What is the funding for the project?

The Australian and NSW Governments are jointly funding the \$261.17 million Newell Highway heavy duty pavement upgrades between Narrabri and Moree.

### Why is the project needed?

The Newell Highway is the longest highway in NSW, running 1058 km through the state. As a major interstate connection between Queensland, NSW and Victoria, the corridor is vital for freight movements, connecting local communities and supporting tourism.

The Newell Highway Corridor Strategy (2015) identifies issues that affect reliability, travel speeds, travel time and, in particular, accessibility to the Newell Highway for High Performance Vehicles (HPVs).

The Corridor Strategy identifies a staged investment program, including short, medium and long term initiatives which have been developed into the Newell Highway Upgrade Program (2015). Initiatives within the Program include heavy duty pavement upgrades, town bypasses, road widening and realignment, heavy vehicle inspection stations, overtaking lanes, flood mitigation and safety enhancements.

This particular project is a cornerstone within the Newell Highway Upgrade Program. Work on the corridor north of Narrabri to the Queensland border was prioritised because of the pavement conditions and the contribution this section makes towards heavy vehicle productivity.

### What improvements will I see on the road?

The project proposes a fit-for-purpose heavy duty pavement upgrade, road widening, changes to vertical alignment and culvert widening to improve flood immunity.

This project will improve safety for motorists, meet existing and future freight needs while also reducing future maintenance requirements and costs – for at least another 40 years!

Some of the key features include:

- widening the existing highway with 3.5m lanes, 2m shoulders, and 1m wide centreline cross section
- Highway realignment to improve geometry in section 1 and section 3
- new 1.5 kilometre long dual overtaking lanes in five locations
- improvements to private property accesses and bus stops
- upgrades to intersections and right turning lanes at all major intersections with the highway
- multiple new bridge-sized culverts including at Clarks Gully
- new Class 3 rest area, providing parking for 18 heavy vehicles up to 48.5 metres long, separate parking for 10 light vehicles and multiple caravans.

### How will the project support the local economy?

The project is expected to create over 640 new jobs with a strong focus on forming partnerships with local businesses, on engaging and supporting women, Aboriginal people, trainees, and young workers.

676 people have been inducted to work on the project to date, with a focus on Aboriginal participation and locally employed staff.

There are 6 full time Aboriginal workers engaged on the project employed directly and 25 sub-contractor or labour hire personnel.

61 local businesses have been sourced from both Moree and Narrabri to supply concrete and quarry products, electrical and plumbing services,

truck, plant and equipment hire, accommodation, catering, cleaning, traffic control and safety equipment.

If you would like to know more about opportunities to be involved in the project, contact our project team anytime on **1800 741 636 (option 3)** or **newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au**, or visit **nswroads.work/n2m**

### Should I expect delays when travelling between Narrabri and Moree?

Yes, as with any construction project on our major road corridors, there will be delays, however every effort will be made to ensure these delays are limited as far as practical and property accesses are maintained for local traffic.

With many other works being delivered along this corridor such essential maintenance activities, motorists should allow extra travel time between Narrabri and Moree.

There will be some temporary traffic changes to ensure the work zone is safe. Local intersection and lane closures, traffic control including short stoppages, and varying speed restrictions as low as 40km/h will be in place at times during work hours and will affect travel times.

We will be working **Monday to Friday** (except for public holidays) between **7.00am** and **6.00pm** and **alternate weekends on Saturdays and Sundays** between **7.00am** and **6.00pm** for the duration of the project.

Motorists should allow extra travel time during this work.

We appreciate your patience while this work is carried out.

## Contact us



Project Infoline **1800 741 636 (option 2)**



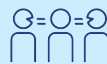
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