

# Wallaga Lake Bridge

## Project update

April 2024



Image: View of Wallaga Lake Bridge from Payne's Island.

## What's been happening

As part of essential maintenance work, preparations for the first bridge closure have been under way since early March. This has included establishing a site compound, completing final measurements, and thoroughly inspecting each bridge element.

In early April, divers started their underwater operations, with a primary focus on preparing the piles. This involved removing existing pile jackets to ensure they are ready to install the new strengthening system once the bridge is closed.

## What's coming up

Beginning Monday 29 April, the bridge will be closed day and night for four weeks, weather permitting. During this time, the project team will conduct maintenance activities on the piles and abutments, which support the bridge. This includes reinforcing the piles using a new jacket strengthening system, driving new piles and installing scour protection at the abutments.

Our work hours during the first closure period are:

- 7am to 6pm, weekdays
- 8am to 5pm, Saturdays
- 8am to 1pm, Sundays (only when required).

## In this update:

- Key dates
- Free temporary bus service
- Changes to school buses and 701 coach service
- Detour during bridge closures
- Speed zone changes
- Pedestrian access during bridge closures



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, the people of the Yuin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present, and their ongoing cultural connection to the region's mountains, coastline and waterways.

# Community support measures

We are committed to supporting the community while we carry out this essential work. What we heard during community consultation has informed a range of strategies we'll put in place to support the community during the closure periods.



Scan the QR code to view the latest information on the project website

## Free temporary bus service

While the bridge is closed to vehicles, a free temporary bus service will be in place to help locals make their way around.

Buses will run from 7am through till 6pm daily, with support services for passengers in wheelchairs. The service will include fixed bus stops and, where it can be safely accommodated, a hail and ride option.

There will be three bus routes connecting Narooma, Central Tilba, Akolele, Cobargo, Bermagui and Wallaga Lake Heights.

- E2: Bermagui to Wallaga Lake Heights, and return
- E3: Akolele to Narooma, and return
- E4: Akolele to Bermagui, and return

Transport will monitor the bus service and may make adjustments to the timetable or stop locations before the second bridge closure period. We will keep the community informed of any changes.

## Accessibility

All buses used across this service will be wheelchair accessible, however the buses can only pick-up wheelchair users from designated stops.

Passengers requiring wheelchair or mobility assistance can arrange for pick-up from one of the designated bus stop locations by making a booking the day before travelling.

## How to find out more

Information regarding bus routes, bus stop locations and the timetable can be found on the project website or at [transportnsw.info](https://transportnsw.info).

For any enquiries about the service or to make a booking for mobility assistance, please contact the bus operator, Bega Valley Coaches:

- Weekdays, 9am – 5pm: 02 6492 5188
- Weekends, 9am – 4pm: 0409 449 856

## Travelling to school

School buses will operate on an adjusted timetable during the two bridge closure periods. An extra bus will be put on to serve Akolele and the Wallaga Lake Aboriginal community, aiming to minimise the travel time for children.

## How to find out more

Schools will share details regarding the adjusted timetable prior to the first bridge closure period from Monday 29 April. Information outlining the adjusted school bus timetable is also available on the project website.

## Park and ride

During the two closure periods, a limited amount of parking will be available south of the bridge on Wallaga Lake Road.

The community will be able to use this parking area while carrying out recreational activities on the lake, when driving to the bridge and catching the free bus service north to Narooma, or if they want to leave a second vehicle to make getting around easier during the closure period.

This area will not be monitored by Transport for NSW and motorists are advised that parking is at your own risk.

## Maintaining pedestrian access

A designated walkway will be available for pedestrians during both closure periods. Access will be restricted to foot traffic only as the walkway will be narrow and will involve stairs.

For safety reasons, bicycles, prams and wheelchairs will not be permitted to use the pedestrian walkway during this time. Temporary lighting will be installed to assist pedestrians in safely crossing the bridge at night.

During work hours, pedestrians may experience a delay to their journey while workers ensure the work site is safe to pass through. Please follow the directions of signs and workers.



## Detour in place during bridge closures

While the bridge is closed, motorists will be detoured by Cobargo Bermagui Road and the Princes Highway.

The usual drive time from Bermagui to Narooma via Wallaga Lake Road is about 30 minutes, and driving the detour route via Cobargo will add about 15 minutes to the journey. Variable message signs will be in place to guide motorists.

During community consultation, we heard concerns about the increase in traffic volumes and road safety along the detour route.

Transport acknowledges there will be additional traffic on the detour route and intersections of Cobargo Bermagui Road with Wallaga Lake Road and the Princes Highway.

To improve road safety along the detour route, we will be installing variable message signs and static signs, implementing traffic control measures and reducing speed limits. Motorists are advised to drive to the conditions and follow the instructions of signs and traffic controllers.

We will be conducting live traffic monitoring at the intersection of Cobargo Bermagui Road and the Princes Highway throughout the initial days of the bridge closure to evaluate traffic movements. If necessary, additional measures, such as manual traffic control, will be implemented to enhance safety and optimise traffic flow through the Cobargo township.

Vegetation maintenance and road surface monitoring of the detour route will also be carried out throughout the project's duration.

### How to find out more

A map of the detour route, including the additional travel times, is available on the project website.

For latest traffic updates:

Call 132 701, visit [livetraffic.com](https://www.livetraffic.com) or download the app, Live Traffic NSW

## Speed zone changes

Based on community feedback, Transport has carried out a speed zone review of Wallaga Lake Road and the Princes Highway.

The speed limit has been permanently reduced from 100 km/h to 80 km/h on Wallaga Lake Road between Bermagui and Fairhaven.

In a temporary arrangement while the detour is in place, the speed limit will be reduced from 80 km/h to 60 km/h at the intersection of the Princes Highway and Bermagui Road at Tilba Tilba.



Image: Close up of Wallaga Lake Bridge

## Protecting the bridge

We heard the community was concerned about ensuring the longevity of the bridge.

To reinforce the load limit and protect the bridge for future use, additional load limit signs have been installed at locations along the Princes Highway, Wallaga Lake Road, and Cobargo Bermagui Road.

Transport is working with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator on enforcing the 22.5 tonne load limit to help prevent the bridge deteriorating further.

## Temporary changes to the 701 coach service

We are working closely with Nowra Coaches to ensure there is minimal disruption to the 701 bus service from Eden to Sydney. Adjustments to the timetable have been made to ensure seamless connections with all rail services at Bomaderry.

During the two closure periods, the 701 bus service will not stop at Beauty Point. Route E2 of the free temporary bus service will connect with the 701 service at the bus stop at the corner of Wallaga Lake Road and Cobargo Bermagui Road in the morning, and the Lamont Street bus stop opposite Dickinson Park in Bermagui in the afternoon.

### How to find out more

Nowra Coaches will advise all booked passengers of any changes to their service. For further information or inquiries, please contact the bus operator, Nowra Coaches on 02 4423 5244.

The latest timetable information is available at [transportnsw.info](https://transportnsw.info)

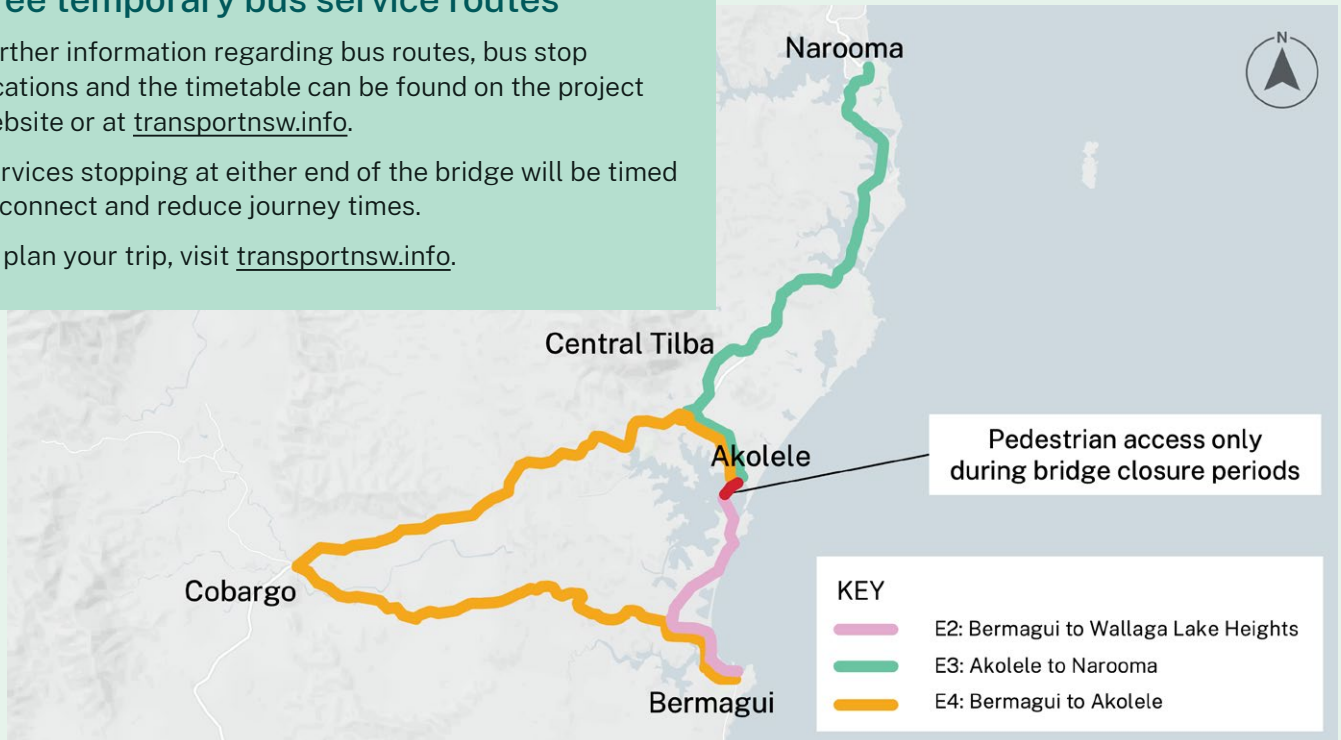


## Free temporary bus service routes

Further information regarding bus routes, bus stop locations and the timetable can be found on the project website or at [transportnsw.info](http://transportnsw.info).

Services stopping at either end of the bridge will be timed to connect and reduce journey times.

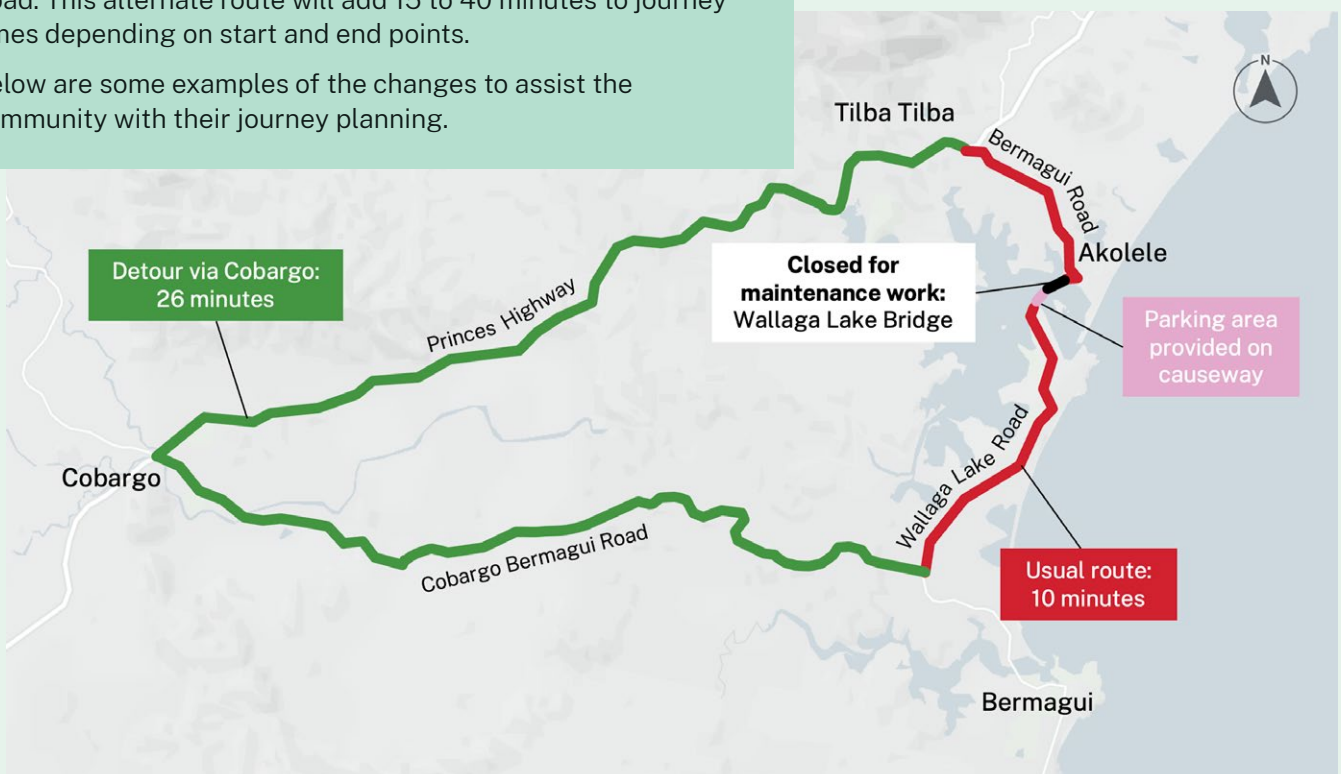
To plan your trip, visit [transportnsw.info](http://transportnsw.info).



## Detour during bridge closure periods

During the two periods when the bridge will be closed, motorists will be detoured via the Princes Highway and Cobargo Bermagui Road. This alternate route will add 15 to 40 minutes to journey times depending on start and end points.

Below are some examples of the changes to assist the community with their journey planning.



**Bermagui to Narooma**  
Usual route: 30 minutes  
Detour: 46 minutes

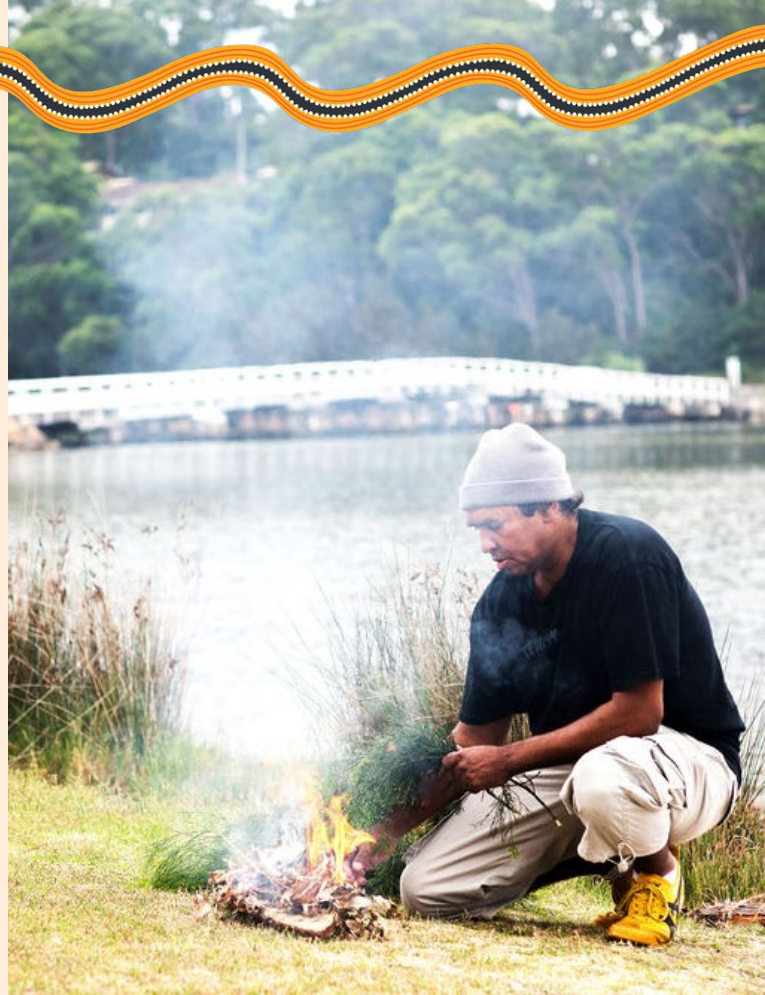
**Bermagui to Akolele**  
Usual route: 12 minutes  
Detour: 34 minutes

**Wallaga Lake Heights to Akolele**  
Usual route: 3 minutes  
Detour: 33 minutes

## Welcome to Country

Before early work started, the project team participated in a Welcome to Country ceremony and cultural awareness training led by Uncle Warren Foster from Yannaga-Yoowaga Tours.

The day began with a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony at Payne's Island Reserve. Following this, the team was guided on a walk to Murunna Point, taking moments to absorb the profound significance of the local Aboriginal culture along the way.



Images above, below and left: Uncle Warren Foster performs a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony for the project team, March 2024.



## Frequently asked questions

### Can I access Payne's Island for recreational activities while work is being carried out?

Yes, access to the Payne's Island foreshore will remain open throughout the project's duration, including when the bridge is closed. However, parking will be limited on the southern side of the bridge.

### Where can I find the timetable for the free bus service?

The latest bus timetable can be found at [transportnsw.info](https://transportnsw.info)

Information is also available on the project website [transport.nsw.gov.au/wallaga-lake-bridge](https://transport.nsw.gov.au/wallaga-lake-bridge).

### Can I travel under the bridge in my kayak or boat during work?

No, access under the bridge will be restricted from mid-April until after the second closure in early August 2024. Scaffolding and pontoons will be in place around the bridge structure to provide a safe work area and access for pedestrians.

### Can I still park on Payne's Island or near the bridge?

Limited parking for 'park and ride' will be available on the southern side of the bridge for those using the free shuttle bus service or carrying out recreational activities off Payne's Island.

No parking will be available on Payne's Island or just north of the bridge as these areas will be used by the project team as work areas.

## Key dates for the project

**Monday 29 April** - Major work begins with the bridge closing for four weeks

**Monday 27 May** - The bridge re-opens under traffic control for six weeks

**Monday 8 July** - Major work continues with the bridge closing for three weeks

**Monday 29 July** - The bridge re-opens under traffic control for five weeks while finishing work is completed

These dates are weather dependent. The community will be informed of any changes in advance.

## Bus timetable

While the timetable and route map is available at [transportnsw.info](https://transportnsw.info) and the project website, printed copies of the timetable will be available at the following locations for the community to collect:

- Bermagui Visitor Information Centre
- Bermagui Pharmacy
- Narooma Visitor Information Centre
- Cobargo Information Centre

If you would like a copy of the timetable for the free bus service, please contact the team on the email address below and we'll arrange for a printed timetable to be sent to you.

## Contact us



1800 015 379



[wallaga.lake.bridge@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wallaga.lake.bridge@transport.nsw.gov.au)



[transport.nsw.gov.au/wallaga-lake-bridge](https://transport.nsw.gov.au/wallaga-lake-bridge)



PO Box 477  
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**For the latest traffic updates:**

Call 132 701, visit [livetraffic.com](https://www.livetraffic.com) or download the app Live Traffic NSW



Image: Wallaga Lake Bridge