



Wallaga Lake Bridge

Project update

July 2024



Aerial view of Wallaga Lake Bridge

What's been happening

Essential maintenance work on the Wallaga Lake Bridge has been progressing as planned. We would like to thank the community for their patience, support, and cooperation while the first four-week closure of the bridge was in place.

During the first closure, we installed new piles for the bridge abutments, reinforced piles with a new jacket strengthening system and installed scour protection at the bridge abutments.

Since the bridge temporarily re-opened in late May, the team have been busy taking delivery of the new timber elements, managing the microbat population and installing pontoon scaffolding to allow pedestrian access across the bridge during the upcoming second closure.



A temporary walkway provides pedestrian access across the bridge



Please make our workers feel welcome around town



Take advantage of the free temporary bus service

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.

What's coming up



From **7am on Monday 8 July**, the bridge will be closed day and night for three weeks, weather permitting. During this closure, workers will be coming from Bega, the Illawarra, Goulburn and Wagga Wagga to work around the clock to ensure the project is completed efficiently, safely and to Transport quality standards.

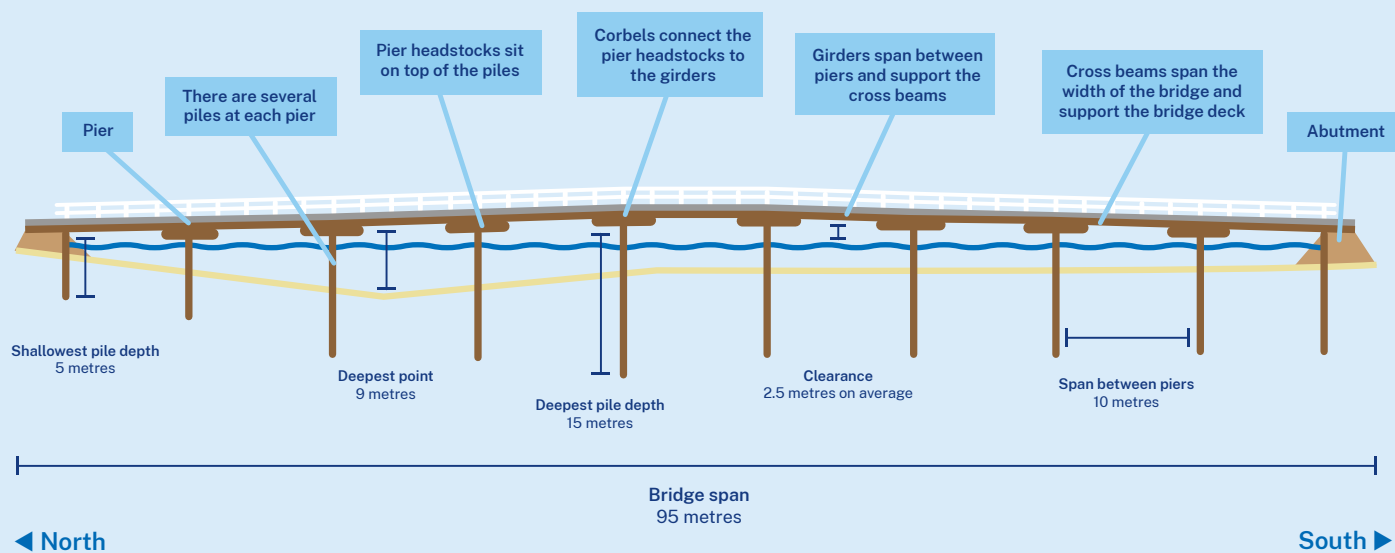
Please make our workers feel welcome if you see them around town. This next stage of the work involves removing and replacing the bridge superstructure elements. During this stage, large elements of the bridge will be removed and replaced with new, prefabricated timber.

This includes replacing the girders, headstocks, cross beams, corbels, railings, and kerb. This work will be noisy and we will make every effort to minimise impacts.

The bridge will re-open with a stop/slow traffic arrangement in place from Monday 29 July, weather permitting. Then, the final stage of work will occur including replacing road pavement, water and sewer services and installing handrails.

Our work hours during the second closure period are **24 hours, seven days per week**

Wallaga Lake Bridge



Longitudinal section of Wallaga Lake Bridge

Key dates



Monday 8 July

Major work continues with the bridge closed for three weeks

Monday 29 July

The bridge re-opens under traffic control while finishing work is completed.

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



Community support measures

We are committed to supporting the community while we carry out this essential work. We will put in place the same support strategies for the second closure period as we did during the first closure.

Free temporary bus service

We received positive feedback from the community about the free temporary bus service, which helped around 140 people each week stay connected while the first closure was in place.

Like the first closure, buses will run from **7am through to 6pm daily**, with a support service in place 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

Information regarding bus routes, bus stop locations and the timetable can be found on the project website or at transportnsw.info.

All buses 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 by making a booking the day before travelling.

For 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 the same adjusted timetable as they did during the first closure. Due to the July school holidays, children travelling to school will only be impacted for one week. The adjusted timetable will be in place from **Monday 22 July to Friday 26 July**.

Schools will share details regarding the adjusted timetable prior to the closure period. Information outlining the adjusted school bus timetable is also available on the project website.



Information outlining the adjusted school bus timetable is available on the project website

Park and ride

Park and ride facilities on the southern side of the bridge will once again be available for those using the connecting bus services, accessing Payne's Island Reserve for recreational activities, or leaving a second vehicle to make getting around easier.

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



Park and ride facilities will once again be available for those using the connecting bus services

Maintaining pedestrian access

A temporary walkway has been installed to allow pedestrian access across the lake during the second closure period.

Access will be restricted to foot traffic only as the walkway will be narrow. Pedestrians can carry a bicycle, folded pram or stroller across the bridge provided it can be done safely. For safety reasons, wheelchair access will not be permitted. 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 worksite is safe to pass through.

Temporary changes to the 701 coach service

The adjustments to the 701 coach service from Eden to Sydney, operated by Nowra Coaches, remain the same as the first closure period.

The 701 service will not stop at Beauty Point during the upcoming closure period. Route E2 of the free temporary bus service will connect to the 701 service at the bus stop at the corner of Wallaga Lake Road and Cobargo Road in the morning, and at the Lamont Street bus stop opposite Dickinson Park in Bermagui in the afternoon.

Nowra Coaches will advise all booked passengers of any changes to their service. For further information or inquiries, please contact Nowra Coaches on 02 4423 5244. The latest timetable information is available at transportnsw.info.



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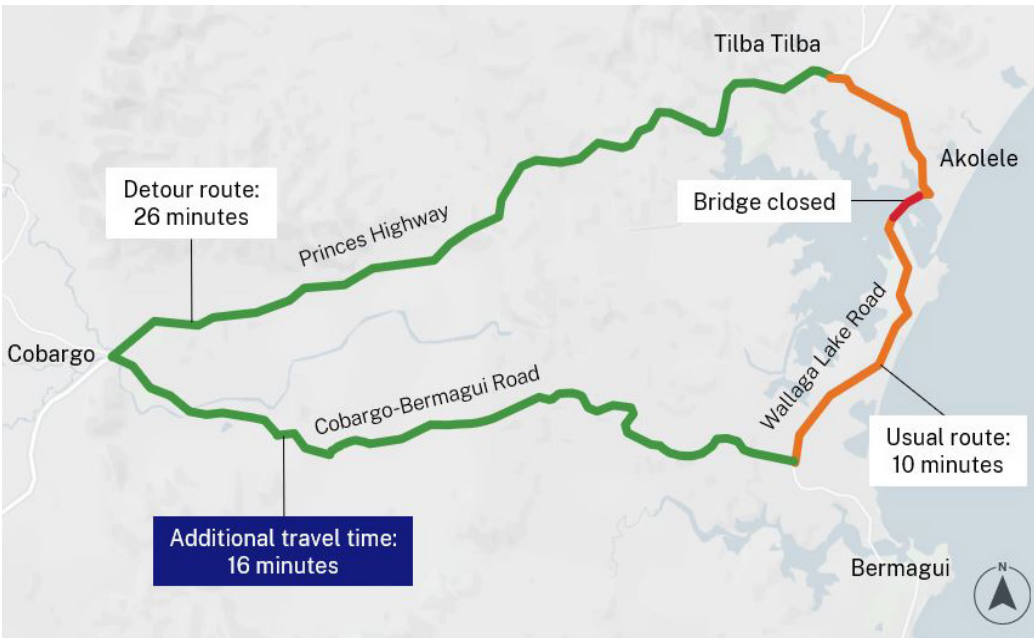
Detour in place during the bridge closure

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

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

For the latest traffic updates:

Call **132 701**, visit **livetraffic.com** or download the app, **Live Traffic NSW**



Detour during bridge closure period



Free temporary bus service routes

Bus timetable

While the timetable and route map is available at transportsw.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 the team and we will arrange for a printed timetable to be sent to you



Looking east towards Wallaga Lake Bridge

Microbats

During the planning stage of the project, a colony of microbats were found living under the Wallaga Lake Bridge. The species found, Southern Myotis (*Myotis macropus*) is considered a threatened species under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

These microbats are commonly found in cracks, gaps and other crevices under bridges and in culverts. To ensure the safety of the microbats during the next stage of work, an ecologist has been engaged to

install nest boxes around the project site and carefully manage the relocation of the colony.

Look closely and you will see nest boxes in the trees around the Wallaga Lake foreshore. These boxes will provide suitable habitat for the microbats while the bridge superstructure is being replaced.

The microbat colony will be monitored during the next stage of work and for up to 12 months after the completion of work.



Nest boxes provided for the microbats



Quotes



Thank you for your feedback as we've developed and delivered this project.

"Thank you all for the extraordinary operation that is taking place at Wallaga Lake Bridge" - local resident

"I think this is the best public consultation process I have encountered. Well done." - local resident

"The [bus] timetable is excellent, with availability at important times" - local resident



Wallaga Lake Bridge



A diver surfaces after carrying out work underwater during the first closure

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the project team.



Project Infoline **1800 015 379**



Wallaga.Lake.Bridge@transport.nsw.gov.au



transport.nsw.gov.au/wallaga-lake-bridge



Customer feedback

Wallaga Lake Bridge
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Scan the QR code to view
the latest information
on the project website



Interpreter service

For languages other than English call **131 450**



For the latest traffic updates:

Call 132 701, visit live.traffic.com or
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