

NEWCASTLE INNER CITY BYPASS: RANKIN PARK TO JESMOND (SSI-6888)
ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE MONTHLY REPORT
May 2025

Reporting Period: 1 to 31 May 2025.

This Environmental Representative (ER) Monthly Report is prepared in accordance with the Minister's Condition of Approval A26(k) for the Newcastle Inner City Bypass: Rankin Park to Jesmond (SSI-6888) and is consistent with the Environmental Representative Protocol (October 2018).



Image: January 2025, Aerial view of project alignment. View looking south. Source: TfNSW

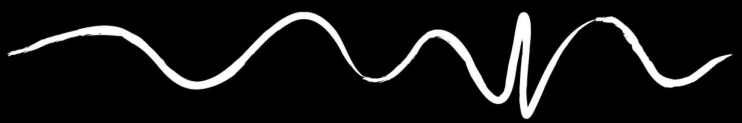
PROJECT SUMMARY

Delivery of a 3.4km section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass (NICB) which will be built between Rankin Park to Jesmond (RP2J) and to the west of the John Hunter Hospital.

The Rankin Park to Jesmond project is the fifth section of the NICB, which forms part of the Transport for NSW long term strategy to connect the Pacific Highway between Bennetts Green and Sandgate.

The project has been broken into four stages:

- Stage 1: Detailed design investigations (geotechnical and utility investigations) and low impact works (house demolition, heritage investigations, at-house noise treatment works, access, installation of environmental controls).
- Stage 2: Shared Path Bridge.
- Stage 3: Southern Interchange Utilities relocation works.
- Stage 4: Main RP2J road construction.



PROJECT WORKS SUMMARY

- Stage 1: Low Impact Works including, House Demolition which was completed June 2021.
At House Noise Treatment (AHNT) completed in October 2024.
- Stage 2: Shared Path Bridge was completed March 2021.
- Stage 3: Southern Interchange Utility Relocation works were completed in August 2022.
- Stage 4: Main construction works underway, commenced March 2023.

May 2025 Completed Works

The following is a summary of the works broken down into project components.

Main Construction

- Road pavement construction including curb and barriers.
- Installation and maintenance of ERSED controls throughout the site as needed.
- Traffic and pedestrian pathway realignment and diversions.
- Earthworks including all interchanges along with the mainline.
- Utilities installation works, including drainage and street lighting.
- Dark Creek culvert construction.
- Bridge structures including piling, excavation, concrete pours and superstructure.
- Progressive revegetation/ landscaping including batter stabilisation, installation of final landscape design.
- Newcastle Road Bridge embankment works

OOHW works:

- Northern interchange:
 - Barrier installation, line-marking, pavement (traffic staging/switches).
 - Concrete works and bridge deck pours.
 - Utilities and drainage
 - Delivery and installation of precast structures.
 - Newcastle Road lane realignment at Inner City Bypass
- Southern interchange:
 - Utilities and drainage
 - Barrier installation, concrete and pavement works



June 2025 Upcoming Works

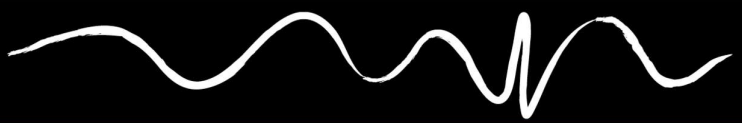
The following is a summary of the works broken down into project components:

Main Construction

- Road pavement construction including curb and barriers.
- Installation and maintenance of ERSSED controls throughout the site as needed.
- Traffic and pedestrian pathway realignment and diversions.
- Earthworks including all interchanges along with the mainline.
- Utilities installation works, including drainage and street lighting.
- Dark Creek culvert construction.
- Bridge structures including piling, excavation, concrete pours and superstructure.
- Progressive revegetation/ landscaping including batter stabilisation, installation of final landscape design.
- Newcastle Road Bridge embankment works
- Downsizing the Jesmond Compound site and establishment of a minor ancillary facility at the JHH entry road
- Southern interchange traffic switch works

Scheduled OOHW Works:

- Northern interchange:
 - Barrier installation, line-marking, pavement (traffic staging/switches).
 - Concrete works and bridge deck pours.
 - Utilities and drainage
 - Delivery and installation of precast structures.
 - Newcastle Road lane realignment at Inner City Bypass
 - Installation of Urban Design elements on bridge structures
- Southern interchange (progressively during the month along with one weekend plus one contingency weekend):
 - Utilities installation including street lighting, electrical, communications and traffic signals
 - Bridge 1 works including barriers, deck and RE walls
 - Drainage installation
 - Pavement works including profiling of existing pavement, sealing and placement of AC, line marking
 - Bulk earthworks including removal of pavement, excavation and placement of general fill, SMZ,
 - Landscaping
 - Curb, verge and shared user path installation



ER Activity:

Reviews/ Approvals/ Advice/ Meetings

- Surface and Groundwater Quality Construction Monitoring Program (Rev I) Minor Update: Review and approve.
- Independent Environmental Audit Plan, Checklist and Previous Findings: Review
- May 2025: Site Environmental Events: Review
- Post Approval Tracking Register – April 2025: Review.
- Monthly Newsletter and Three Month Look Ahead: Review.
- Community Notices / Out of Hours Updates: Review.
- ERG Monthly Inspection and Meeting – Agenda and Minutes: May 2025
- Fortnightly Environment and Sustainability Team Meeting with FHC, TfNSW and ER.
- Monthly ER Meeting with DPHI (Post Approval and Compliance).

Inspections

- Site inspections were held on:
 - ERG Site Inspection was held on Tuesday, May 6.
 - ER and TfNSW inspection did not occur in May due to a severe weather event and SES advice to not travel in or around Newcastle.
- An Environmental Inspection Report were prepared and issued through the TfNSW Ngara system to FHC and TfNSW, and copies provided to DPHI.

Environmental Review Group (ERG) Meeting

- The ERG meeting was held on the 6 May.
- The next ERG meeting No.30 is scheduled for Tuesday 1 July 2025
- ERG meetings are Bi-Monthly, i.e.: July, September, November.

Audits

- No. 1 Independent Environmental Audit was undertaken in May 2023. All matters have been closed out.
- No. 2 Independent Environmental Audit will be undertaken in May 2024. All matters have been closed out.
- No. 3 Independent Environmental Audit is due to be undertaken on the 28 May 2025.

Stop Work Notices

- There were no Stop Work Notices in May.

Incidents (as per MCoA definition)

- There were no incidents in May.



Non-compliances

- There were no non-compliances in May.

Environmental Issues (i.e.: not classified as Incidents as per MCoA)

- A severe rainfall event occurred for approximately 5 days commencing on Sunday 18 May. The rainfall for the peak of the event exceeded 300mm with the monthly total reaching almost 500mm, inundating all ErSed controls, clean water drains and sediment basins. The site was closed and all staff advised not to travel to site or the compound site for safety reasons. Repair work has commenced on the ErSed controls.

Project Positives

- None in May.

CEMP, CEMPP & Minister's Conditions of Approval

Reports

- MCoA A26(k): Environmental Representative Monthly Report (April 2025): submitted to DPHI (via Portal): 7 May 2025.

Monitoring

- Monthly noise monitoring as per NVMP did not exceed NML's.
- Water quality monitoring was undertaken pursuant to the SGWCMP during the month. The laboratory results were not available at the time of reporting. Field monitoring did not present any anomalies.
- Dust gauges were changed on 30 May, the rolling averages are all below the criteria of 4.

Sediment Basin Discharges

May saw a total of 482mm rainfall at the Jesmond weather station, continuing on from 288mm of rain in April. The table below summarises exceedances of the Project's 5-day design rainfall events and basins overtopped during these events.

DATE	RAINFALL TOTAL (MM)	BASINS OVERTOPPED
23/04/2025 – 04/05/2025	258.6	7440W, 7520W, 8220W, 8900W, 9600E, 10060W,
08-29/05/2025	458.2	7440W, 7520W, 8220W, 8900W, 9600E, 10060W

Following each of these events resulting in controlled discharges from the sites construction sediment basins, inspections were conducted by the Environmental team. Issues identified included routine maintenance and/or repair of controls, basin treatment and pre-flooding of basin inlets.

Community Consultation and Complaints

Community consultation

There were 28 incoming communications from stakeholders recorded in Consultation Manager.

- 17 positive/neutral: project timelines, enquiries about upcoming shut downs at Southern Interchange, request for project team update visit.
- 11 negative: traffic light sequencing, potholes, gravel/dirt on road, vibration damage

Regular interactions

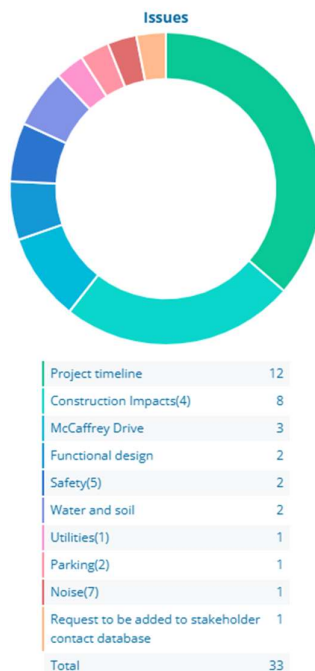
- Keilos Downer & CDC
- City of Newcastle Council, Lake Macquarie Council
- John Hunter Hospital and NSW Health Services – monthly meeting with FH and TfNSW; Southern Interchange work
- Weekly FH and TfNSW Comms meetings.

Notification

- OOHW and three-month lookahead May – July
- Southern Interchange weekend 3 work

Trends

- Increasing enquiries about expected project completion date.
- Continuing engagement about the Southern Interchange work, keeping information up to date with impacted stakeholders and residents.
- Opening discussions about upcoming driveway and foot path work on Lookout Road.





Closing Remarks

The month has been dominated by wet weather events including a severe rainfall and storm event from Monday 19 to Friday 23 where the site received almost 500mm of rain. When possible, construction for the month included finalising earthworks, structures, continuing installation of the Dark Creek culvert adjacent to Newcastle Road, shotcreting batters and bridge works. Environmental works have included installation of progressive ErSed controls, permanent landscaping, and commencing the process for some sediment basin removal.

At the northern interchange, construction of the Dark Creek culvert and other bridge and pedestrian structures continues including filling of southern embankment of the Newcastle Road bridge. The Jesmond Compound is being reduced in size and a new minor ancillary facility has been set up at the JHH interchange however, due to rain delays, the Jesmond compound has not commenced decommissioning.

On the mainline, some areas of the alignment in the south have been asphalted, the JHH interchange earthworks are progressing well, and bridge and culvert structures are underway. A small area of clearing has also occurred adjacent to the JHH to make way for overburden storage from the removal of McCaffrey Drive.

The McCaffrey Drive out of hours weekend works were undertaken in April with minimal disruption to the local traffic. One more weekend out of hours works is planned for June which has been delayed due to the weather.

As noted above, May was marked by a severe weather event, during which the environmental team worked diligently to manage impacts as effectively as possible under challenging conditions. The focus now shifts to the design and implementation of necessary repairs, with the project team responsible for restoring environmental controls and ensuring the site is brought back online in a safe and compliant manner.

RP2J Environmental Representative (as per MCoA A22)



Simon Williams
Director / Principal Environmental Planner
GeoLINK

Attachment: Site Images – May 2025



Site Images – May 2025



Image 1: John Hunter Hospital (JHH) interchange looking south across to the Hospital.



Image 2: John Hunter Hospital (JHH) interchange looking north up the mainline.



Image 3: Northern Interchange, photo is taken from Newcastle Bridge looking west along Newcastle Road.



Image 4: Northern Interchange, photo is taken from Newcastle Bridge looking north toward the Jesmond Compound Site.

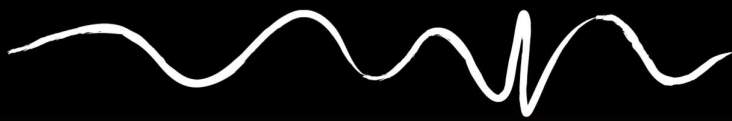


Image 5: Taken from the new McCaffrey Drive bridge looking west along the McCaffrey Drive.



Image 6: Taken from the new McCaffrey Drive bridge looking northeast towards McCaffrey Drive.



Image 7: Taken from the new McCaffrey Drive bridge looking north through the bypass.



Image 8: Taken from the new McCaffrey Drive bridge looking south.