

Community update

Katoomba U-turn Bay slope repairs

October 2025



Australian Government



The gabion baskets being constructed at the Katoomba U-turn Bay slope failure site.

A record amount of slope repair and stabilisation work is underway to improve resilience along major roads through the Blue Mountains.

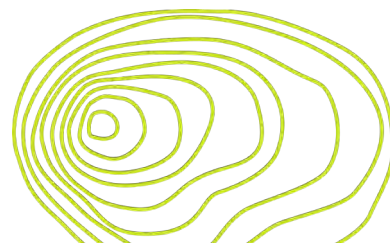
This long-term repair work is an important investment in the communities of the Blue Mountains and regional NSW. The Australian and NSW Governments are investing in this work through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

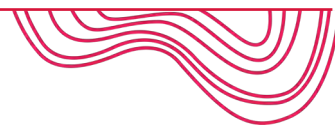
Following extreme weather in 2022, the slope beside the Great Western Highway at the Katoomba U-turn Bay was badly damaged and collapsed. Transport for NSW (Transport) is now permanently repairing the slope that underpins the U-turn Bay.

In this update

Find out about:

- construction progress update
- upcoming work
- unexpected finds and new completion date
- access and alternate rest area option





Building the gabion basket at Katoomba U-turn Bay

Construction progress update

Transport's contractor Ventia is progressing well on the project scope with key elements successfully completed, including:

- removing vegetation within the slope failure area and stormwater detention basin site
- new line marking in the U-turn Bay area
- the temporary access track and bulk earthworks
- building a gabion basket retaining wall
- installing structural supports to prevent future slope failures.

The project will continue to progress over the coming months, with upcoming work including:

- installing soil nails to further stabilise the slope
- shotcreting the slope to provide better stability
- building new kerb and gutter
- restoring the U-turn Bay pavement
- installing new guardrail and fencing.

Unexpected finds and new completion date

While clearing vegetation for the project, we discovered a small pre-existing crib wall. A crib wall is a wall made of interlocking concrete blocks that is used to stabilise slopes whilst providing adequate drainage.

This unexpected find caused us to pause the project while we re-designed the works to integrate the old and new structures together.

With work resuming following the re-design, the project is now successfully at the halfway point, and we anticipate that work will be completed by March 2026, weather permitting.



Katoomba U-turn Bay slope before work began, showing the extent of the failure

Feedback

Transport and Ventia would like to hear your feedback on our project communications and site management.

This will help us to refine and improve our ways of working, how we engage with our stakeholders and how we can minimise impacts for future works.

Follow the QR code to complete the survey, which closes on 30 November 2025.

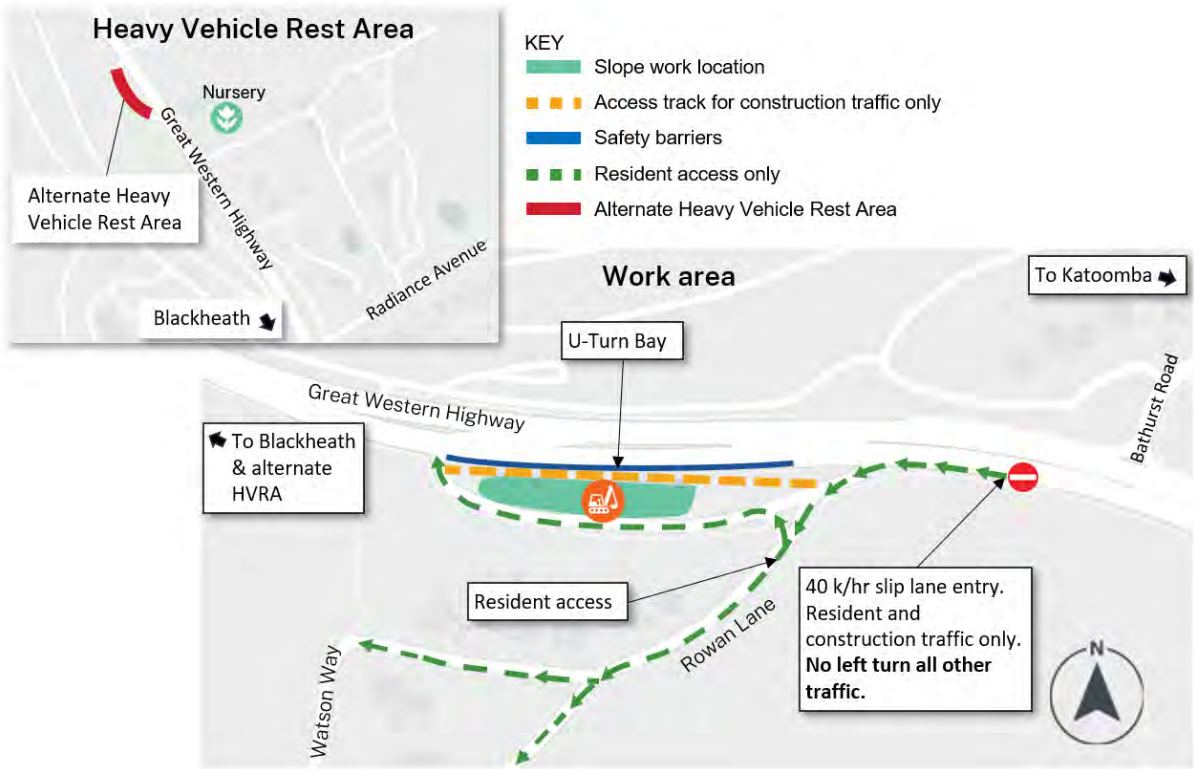


Access and alternate rest area

The U-turn Bay will continue to be open to regular vehicles during the work. We will also maintain access for residents’ weekly household rubbish collections, construction vehicles and emergency services.

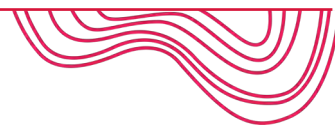
Residents will use their regular access points to enter and exit the Great Western Highway. Left turn access into the bay will be via the slip lane entry and Rowan Lane, and both left and right turns out of the U-turn Bay, will be available.

We will continue to detour heavy vehicles to the alternate heavy vehicle rest area on the Great Western Highway at Blackheath, which is 11.4 kilometres west of the U-turn Bay, approximately 15 minutes travel time (please see the map below).



Since construction began in January 2025, we have:

Recycled 300 tonnes of sandstone to be reused in NSW construction projects	Excavated 435 cubic metres of materials like rocks and vegetation	Installed 149 cubic metres of rock filled gabion basket wall



Next steps

Project timeline



Project duration and work hours

We expect to complete the work in **March 2026**, weather permitting. Standard working hours will be **7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, and 8am to 1pm on Saturday.**

There will be up to three weeks' of night work towards the end of the project. Night work hours will be **8pm to 5am, Sunday to Thursday.** We will notify impacted stakeholders closer to the date of these works.

We will not work on Sunday during the day or on public holidays.

If you have any concerns during construction, please contact us on the project line 1800 577 441.

Transport and its delivery partner Ventia would like to thank the community for their patience while we complete this important work.



Contact us



Project Infoline **1800 577 441**



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nswroads.work/BlueMountainsSlopes



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