



Cohens Bridge Painting Works – Factsheet and FAQs

Cohens Bridge – Chandos Street, Gunnedah

August 2025



Transport for NSW acknowledges the Kamilaroi people of the Kamilaroi Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past and present.

This factsheet outlines key details about upcoming painting work on Cohens Bridge in Gunnedah, including what to expect during construction, how we're managing safety, noise and traffic, and why this work is necessary.

Upcoming work on Cohens Bridge

Transport for NSW started preparation work on **Monday 28 July 2025** to repaint the historic Cohens Bridge.

This follows the successful completion of essential structural maintenance, including the replacement of the bridge deck with reinforced concrete and steel buckle plates.

Repainting is critical to preserving the bridge's structural integrity and heritage value. In total, more than **2,600 square metres** of steelwork needs to be blasted and repainted, including the bridge's iconic **38.8-metre wrought iron lattice trusses**.

Paint blasting and removal

Existing lead-based paint will be removed using hand-held blast lines to clean every part of the steel surface.

Containment and extraction systems

To protect the environment, blasting will take place inside full containment structures, supported by extensive scaffolding. Residue will be captured and removed using large industrial extractors.

Repainting steel surfaces

Once clean, the steel will be repainted with a protective coating to extend the lifespan of the bridge and reduce corrosion.

Shift-based working

Work will be completed using rotating shifts to limit crew exposure to noise, hazardous materials and dust.



How we're managing traffic during work

Lane closure and traffic signals

A single-lane closure will be in place from **Wednesday 27 August 2025**, with temporary traffic signals controlling the flow of traffic across the bridge. The bridge will remain **open to light vehicles only**.

Heavy vehicle detour

Due to lane width restrictions, vehicles more than three metres wide, including heavy vehicles, must continue using the detour via Old Blue Vale and Blue Vale Road. This detour will remain in place until the work is complete in **August 2026**,).

How we're managing safety and the environment

Lead paint containment

All lead-based paint removal will take place within sealed environments to prevent contamination of surrounding land and the Namoi River.

Environmental controls

Containment structures, air extraction, and regular site monitoring will ensure minimal impact on nearby residents and the environment.



Working with you

We know there will be some noise and vibration impact when we are working in your area. If you live close to construction you may hear and feel our work happening when machinery is operating.

About Cohens Bridge

Location

Namoi River, Gunnedah

Built

1884

Length

173 metres

Investment

\$10.6 million by the NSW Government

Cohens Bridge is one of the oldest steel road bridges in NSW. This painting project is part of a broader upgrade to strengthen the structure, improve safety, and conserve its significant heritage value for future generations.

Frequently asked questions

Why is the bridge being repainted?

The repainting is essential to protect the historic steel structure from corrosion, extend the bridge's lifespan, and maintain its safe use for vehicles.

Why does the old paint need to be blasted off?

The current paint is lead-based and must be completely removed before new protective coating can be applied. Special precautions are taken to safely remove and contain the lead paint residue.

Will this work be noisy?

Some noise is expected during blasting and repainting. Work will be completed in rotating shifts to minimise noise exposure. Noise and dust control measures will also be in place.

How long will the work take?

Work will be carried out between July 2025 and August 2026, weather permitting.

Can heavy vehicles use the bridge during the work?

No. Due to lane width restrictions, heavy vehicles and any vehicle wider than 3 metres must use the designated detour route for the duration of the painting work.

Contact us



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nswroads.work/cohensbridge



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