

# Hampden Bridge

## Project update

September 2025



Safety work on Hampden Bridge during August 2025

We have been working to urgently repair the historic Hampden Bridge in Kangaroo Valley, with the first round of safety work now complete.

In June 2025, we reduced the load limit on Hampden Bridge from 42.5 tonne to 23 tonne to reduce strain on the bridge and prevent further damage. The load limit reduction aims to preserve the bridge and avoid the need for sudden and complete closures for long lengths of time, which would significantly disrupt the local community and the broader transport network.

We have been investigating options to enable the crossing to return to a 42.5 tonne load limit. While these investigations are being carried out, we will continue regular maintenance on Hampden Bridge.

### Work to repair Hampden Bridge

During August 2025 we carried out urgent safety work on Hampden Bridge. The night work included replacing nine timber beams along the top of the truss as part of essential maintenance.

A more complex program of strengthening work is being planned with another 12 timber beams along the bottom of the trusses to be replaced. This work is expected to be completed during 2026. More information will be available about this as our planning progresses.

## Next steps for the crossing of Kangaroo River

A temporary bridge next to the existing Hampden Bridge downstream (western side) is now the preferred alternate access option and is being developed. This follows preliminary investigations into options to provide medium-term access across the Kangaroo River. The funding required for this project is being sought and timelines refined as the various constraints at the site are being worked through.

To progress in the shortest timeframe possible, our preferred bridge option is a one-lane modular steel truss bridge. The bridge comes in prefabricated sections and would largely be assembled onsite. The bridge would launch across the Kangaroo River.

### What options were considered?

The options investigated to return the crossing to 42.5 tonnes included:

- a temporary bridge next to Hampden Bridge
- a detour option with an alternate river crossing. Two main routes were considered. They were via Kangaroo Valley Road/Glenmurray Road and Upper Kangaroo River Road and Nerriga and Oallen Ford roads.

These options were assessed for viability.

A detour via Kangaroo Valley Road/Glenmurray Road and Upper Kangaroo River Road was assessed and is not considered viable. This route would result in significant impact on the environment, greater property impact, is a longer detour and would take more time to construct.

The Nerriga and Oallen Ford roads detour route is not viable as extensive road upgrades would be required. This alternate route would only benefit vehicles travelling between Nowra and the Goulburn area – a small percentage of heavy vehicles currently impacted by the Hampden Bridge reduced load limit.

### Next steps

We will now progress to detailed design and various other assessments and approvals required to install a temporary bridge next to Hampden Bridge.

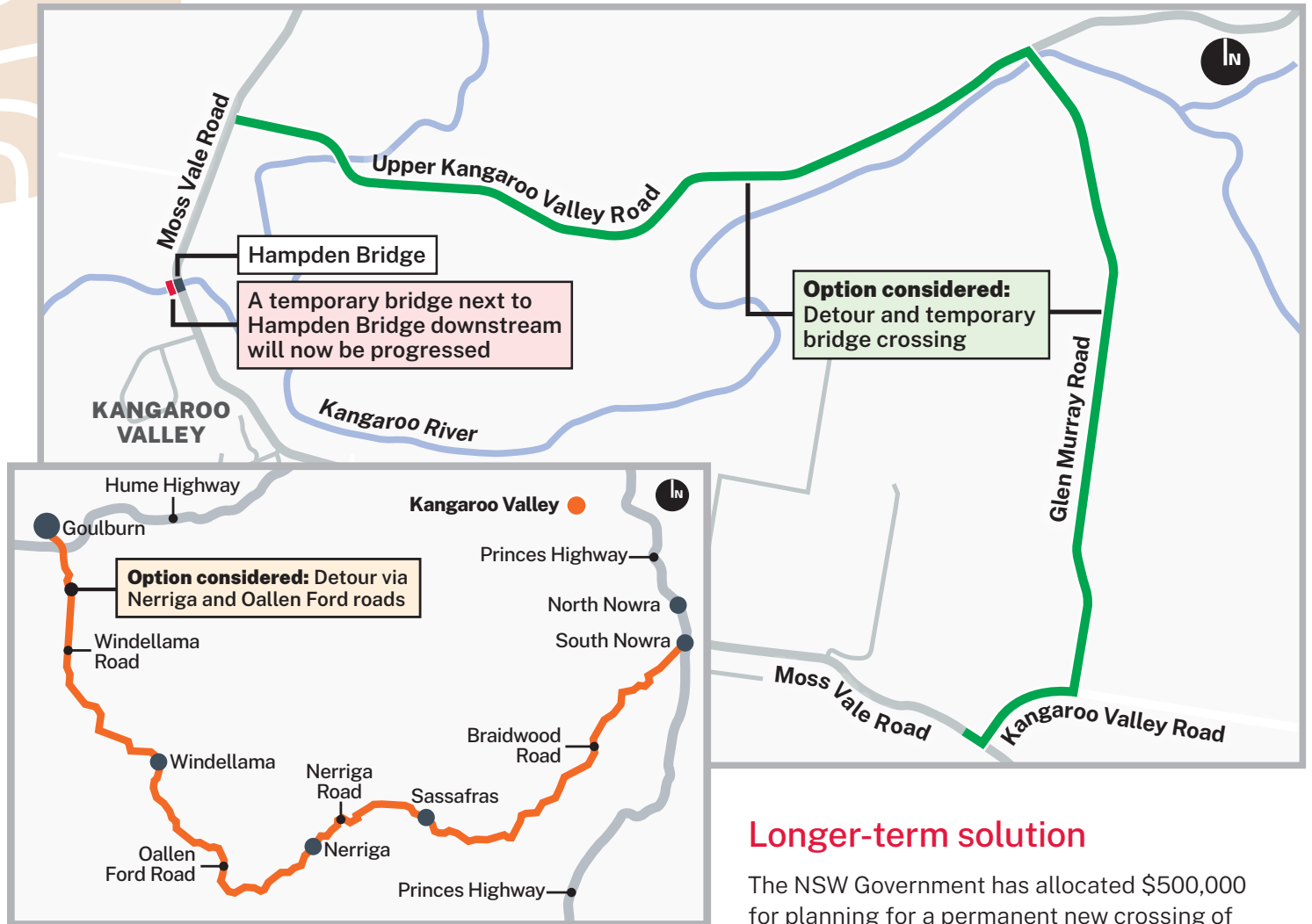
Project development is progressing well, and a timeline is being refined as we better understand the site constraints and work through the various assessments required. Once this timeline is confirmed, the details will be shared.

Geotechnical and utility investigations are underway. There will be further on site investigations and surveys as the detailed design progresses.



Artist's impression of a modular steel truss bridge. For illustration purposes only.

## Temporary bridge crossing options



### Why do we need a temporary solution?

While we are currently in the early stages of planning and do not have definitive answers regarding timelines, it is anticipated investigations to confirm the preferred longer-term option for the river crossing could take up to 12 months.

We have listened to the freight and farming community and understand the desire for the crossing to return to general access 42.5 tonne limit as soon as possible.

It is expected that a temporary bridge crossing accommodating vehicles up to 42.5 tonnes could be designed and constructed sooner – easing the current pressures being placed on industry.

### Why does it take so long to build a temporary bridge?

Although modular bridges are designed for rapid assembly, essential planning and approvals are still required. These include technical investigations, environmental and heritage approvals, design and engineering, and property and legal considerations.

## Longer-term solution

The NSW Government has allocated \$500,000 for planning for a permanent new crossing of the Kangaroo River. Early concept designs, cost estimates and initial economic modelling will be part of the investigation process.

A long-term solution would need to:

- reinstate a minimum 42.5 tonne load limit to facilitate safe and efficient movement of goods across the Kangaroo River
- respect the heritage significance of the existing Hampden Bridge and minimise ecological impacts on the Kangaroo River and surrounding habitats
- evaluate alternative crossing options to reduce reliance on a single structure and support emergency access
- identify solutions that improve freight productivity and access for local industries, contributing to job creation and economic development in the Kangaroo Valley region.

Options for a new crossing will be developed in consultation with the community and Shoalhaven City Council. More information will be available as planning progresses. This initial planning process is expected to be completed in mid-2026.



## What we heard from the community

During June 2025, we heard valuable information from the community about your interest in reinstating the 42.5 tonne load limit and your use of the Hampden Bridge.

Following the NSW Government's announcement of a \$500,000 investment to begin planning for a new crossing over the Kangaroo River in Kangaroo Valley, we invited the community, special interest groups and industry to share their ideas, experiences and insights.

Community and consultation activities included:

- key stakeholder meetings
- community drop-in sessions on 29 August and 30 August 2025.

We heard a range of views from the Kangaroo Valley community and stakeholders on the future of Hampden Bridge and options for heavy vehicle access.

## Key themes

**Heritage value:** Feedback highlighted the importance of Hampden Bridge to the town's heritage and tourism appeal. Maintaining its integrity and character is considered essential.

**New crossing options:** The competing priorities of providing heavy vehicles access to maintain the efficient movement of goods and services and maintaining the look and feel of the current bridge and Kangaroo Valley. There was significant support for continuing to divert heavy vehicles away from the centre of town.

**Timing:** Strong feedback from the freight and local farming industry that they need general access 42.5 tonne heavy vehicle access restored across the Kangaroo River as soon as possible to ensure businesses can remain viable.

**Glenmurray Road:** Responses to a potential Glenmurray Road crossing were mixed, with various concerns identified around feasibility, flooding and local impacts.

**Permanent v temporary solutions:** There was a clear preference for longer-term solutions that provide certainty and avoid repeated disruptions, rather than temporary measures.

**Additional considerations:** Feedback suggested that any future crossing should consider improved pedestrian access, minimise property and amenity impacts, and provide clear timelines for delivery.

## How the feedback has been used

Feedback and suggestions from the community and stakeholders has been considered in combination with engineering, environmental, land use and social studies, to progress the project and inform the development of the temporary bridge and a permanent new crossing of the Kangaroo River. We will continue to engage with the stakeholders and the community as the project progresses.




The project team talking with the community

## Contact us

 **Renee Ridley** 1800 317 290

 [hampdenbridge@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hampdenbridge@transport.nsw.gov.au)

 <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/hampden-bridge>

 PO Box 477, Wollongong, NSW 2520



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