



Pacific Highway improvements at Hexham (Hexham Straight Widening)

Project update – June to August 2025

June 2025



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

The Australian and NSW Governments are investing in the upgrade of the section of Maitland Road known as Hexham Straight, between Newcastle Inner City Bypass and Hexham Bridge, to improve safety and traffic flow for the 50,000 motorists who use this road every day.

Transport for NSW has formed an Alliance with Georgiou, Daracon and SMEC to design and build the project. Major construction has begun, and the project is expected to be open to traffic in 2026.

What we've been doing

Works underway or completed over the past three months:

- Continued median and shoulder widening, including asphalt and kerb replacement between Sandgate Cemetery and the Oak Precinct
- Continued relocation of utility services, including water, electrical, telecommunications and work on the traffic control signals
- Continued bridge work on the northbound Ironbark Creek/Toohrnbing bridge.

What's happening next

In the next three months, work activities will include:

- Opening traffic to widened lanes between Sandgate Cemetery and Calvary St Joseph's
- Ongoing relocation of utility services and work on the traffic control signals
- Ongoing work in the median and shoulder widening on Maitland Road
- Ongoing bridgework at Ironbark Creek/Toohrnbing bridge.

When and where we'll be working

The work will occur along the length of the project from the Newcastle Inner City Bypass to the Oak Precinct.

Day work will be carried out **Monday to Friday** between **7am and 6pm** and **Saturday** from **8am to 1pm**. Night work will be carried out from **Sunday to Thursday** between **6pm and 7am**.

What will this mean for you?

During night work there may be temporary lane closures. During lane closures, intermittent stop/slow traffic control and a reduced speed limit of 40km/h will be in place in the work zones.

A temporary 60km/h reduced speed limit will remain in place through the work zone for the safety of motorists and workers.

Managing our impacts

There will be machinery and other plant and equipment working in different areas throughout the project. The machinery and equipment generate light, noise and vibration. We will make every effort to minimise these impacts by:

- Monitoring noise to manage any potential impacts and adjust our work, where possible
- Keeping residents informed about night work near their property
- Turning off machinery and vehicles when not in use and using non-tonal reversing alarms
- Adjusting the positioning of machines and directing temporary lighting down and away from homes during night work.



Revegetation at Toohrnbing Bridge

Revegetation at the new Ironbark Creek/Toohrnbing bridge was completed during April 2025. In partnership with the Hunter Wetlands Centre, the project team worked to restore this area of wetland.

Around 300 Grey Mangroves and 1,000 Saltmarsh species (Searush and Marine Couch) were transplanted from the Hunter Wetlands to the project area. Mangroves generally tolerate lower elevation (more inundation), and saltmarsh species sit at higher elevation (less frequent inundation).

The revegetation gives the area a vital start towards natural regeneration. As the plants take root and spread, ground coverage will progressively increase, improving stabilisation of the riverbank and providing habitat for crustaceans and other marine species, as well as migratory birds. This also creates a good breeding environment for fish and microbats.

In addition to serving as critical sources of food and habitat, wetlands fulfill essential ecological functions by mitigating erosion, filtering nutrients to uphold water quality, and acting as significant carbon sinks.



The project team planting Marine Couch

Volunteer work at Hunter Wetlands Centre

Representatives from the project team have volunteered at Hunter Wetlands Centre to assist their volunteers with weeding. The initiative started in 2024 and has continued in 2025.

The Hunter Wetlands Centre is Australia's oldest community-owned wetland centre. They restore wetlands and conserve wildlife on their 43-hectare site.

The Wetlands have over 160 volunteers, planting over 370,000 to improve the wetlands which are home to over 217 different bird species.

This partnership has enabled the project to support the local community, as well as the environment by providing much needed assistance.



Volunteers weeding at Hunter Wetlands Centre



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