



Update on progress

Newcastle Inner City Bypass – Rankin Park to Jesmond project

October 2025



Australian Government

BUILDING AUSTRALIA



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.



Artist impression showing aerial view of hospital interchange looking south

The Australian and NSW governments are investing in the Rankin Park to Jesmond section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass.

Work is continuing on the Rankin Park to Jesmond section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass. Transport for NSW has engaged Fulton Hogan to finalise the design and construct this section of the bypass, which marks the fifth stage of the project.

This 3.4-kilometre section of the project will provide traffic relief to the surrounding road network, in particular the existing route of Lookout Road, Croudace Street and Newcastle Road, which is currently used by about 40,000 to 60,000 vehicles each day. The new bypass will remove up to 30,000 vehicles each day from this route.

When completed, motorists travelling north-south on the new section of bypass would avoid up to 11 sets of traffic lights along the existing route, which is expected to reduce travel times by up to 80 per cent during the morning and afternoon peaks.

Connectivity for the John Hunter Hospital precinct will be improved with a full interchange on the bypass providing access for the hospital from the north and south. This will help to improve access for staff, patients and visitors travelling to the hospital precinct.

Improved safety is a priority, with crashes on the surrounding road network predicted to reduce by around a third.

Additional pedestrian and cyclist connectivity will further support active transport improvements in the region.



Weather impacts to construction schedule

Since the start of construction on this stage of the bypass there has been significant amounts of rainfall in the Newcastle region.

In 2024, there were 113 days of rain greater than one millimetre with a total annual rainfall of 1289.4mm, above the annual average of 1124mm (based on the Nobbys Head Station 061055).

Between January and September this year, there has already been more than 75 days of rain greater than one millimetre and total rainfall of around 1428mm. This has resulted in a loss of more than 68 workdays to wet weather events this year.

Weather events during the year have not only impacted loss of workdays, but also affected what work could be carried out due to water pooling for days or weeks on site.

This has caused delays to planned work, such as the southern interchange switch at the Lookout Road and McCaffrey Drive intersection, as well as significant impacts to Dark Creek culvert, which had cumulative impacts on the earthworks between the bridges at the northern interchange.

The above average rainfalls and impact of weather events have substantially affected the timeline for the Rankin Park to Jesmond section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass with the project now targeting a revised completion date of early to mid-2026.

Key features

The project involves building a 3.4-kilometre four-lane divided road including:

- a northern interchange at Newcastle Road
- an interchange providing access to John Hunter Hospital precinct
- a southern interchange at Lookout Road
- structures provided along the bypass to support connectivity in the bushland for people and animals
- off-road provisions for pedestrians and cyclists including a shared path bridge over Newcastle Road at Jesmond.



Artist impression showing aerial view of hospital interchange looking south

Contact us



Project Infoline **1800 818 433**



RP2JCommunity@fultonhogan.com.au



<https://nswroads.work/rp2j>



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