

Picton Road upgrade

Project update

July 2025



Picton Road and M1 Princes Motorway intersection

The Australian and NSW governments are investing \$80.7 million and \$44 million respectively to the upgrade of Picton Road between the Nepean River and the M1 Princes Motorway, including the interchanges at the M31 Hume Motorway and the M1 Princes Motorway.

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The Picton Road upgrade includes about 30 kilometres of Picton Road, between the Nepean River and the M1 Princes Motorway. The upgrade has been divided into three sections:

- **western section:** between the Nepean River and Almond Street, Wilton including the M31 Hume Motorway interchange
- **central section:** from Almond Street, Wilton to around Mount Keira Road
- **eastern section:** from Mount Keira Road to the M1 Princes Motorway.

What's been happening



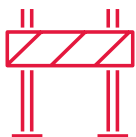
Central and eastern sections

Transport has awarded a contract to progress design and planning for the upgrade of Picton Road, between Almond Street, Wilton and the M1 Princes Motorway. The contract has been awarded to the AECOM Australia and Stantec Australia Joint Venture, also known as the Picton Pathways Joint Venture (PPJV).

Over the coming months, team members will be on-site conducting field investigations to gain a better understanding of the local environment and factors influencing the road design.

These investigations will further assess key elements such as biodiversity, heritage, geology, soils, water quality, land use, utilities and traffic patterns, helping to shape initial design options for the central and eastern sections of the Picton Road upgrade.

Some works may be required within the road corridor, which could lead to temporary traffic arrangements and controls. Where possible, Transport and the PPJV will align these works with existing maintenance closures on Picton Road to minimise inconvenience. The community will be kept informed as the project progresses, with timely updates on any expected traffic impacts.

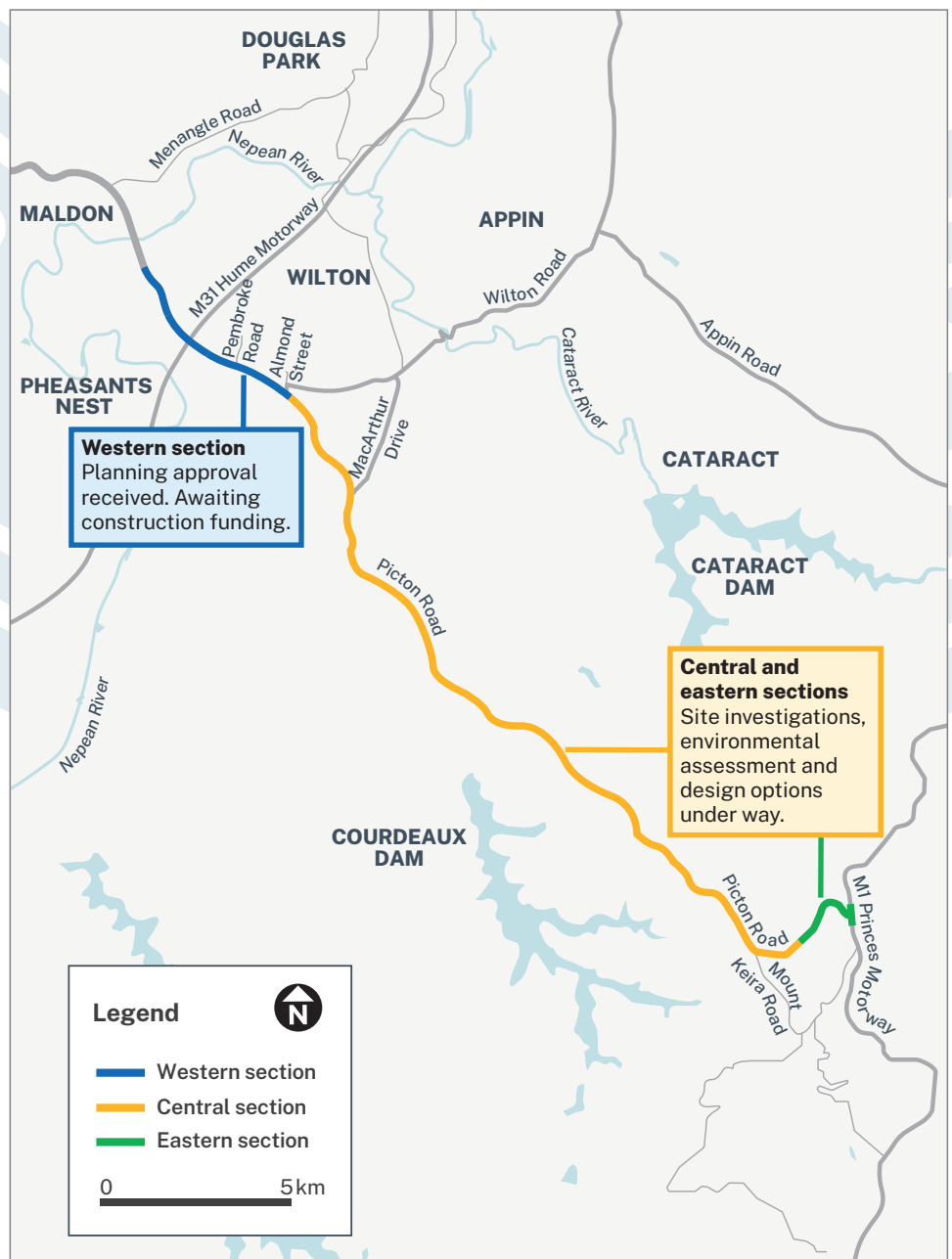


Some investigation work may lead to temporary traffic arrangements and controls.

Western section

Transport has been progressing delivery-readiness activities for the western section of Picton Road upgrade, between the Nepean River and Almond Street, Wilton including the M31 Hume Motorway interchange. These activities include the start of the property acquisition process. Engagement has commenced with affected property owners and will continue. Additionally, work continues on refining the construction design, supported by further surveys and investigations.

There is currently no funding for construction of the project and timeframes for the start of construction are not yet known.



Understanding our project environment

As part of early planning for the central and eastern sections of Picton Road upgrade, Transport has carried out vegetation surveys over an area of more than 2000 hectares surrounding Picton Road to accurately map vegetation communities.

Coastal upland swamps occur within the Sydney Basin, usually at an elevation of 200 to 450 metres, and generally have acidic soils. The swamps can support more than 200 plant species and provide habitat for a variety of insects and animals. One of their most important jobs is acting as a natural filter. They slow down water as it moves through the environment, stopping erosion and letting dirt settle at the bottom. They also trap pollutants, keeping them from spreading, and release cleaner water into nearby rivers and creeks.



Giant dragonfly species found along Picton Road

The threatened giant dragonfly (*Petalura gigantea*), an ancient family of dragonfly whose lineage can be traced back to the Late Jurassic period, inhabit coastal upland swamps. This species lives underground as a larva for six or more years before emerging as an adult with a short flying season, generally only a few months. An adult giant dragonfly can have a wingspan of up to 12.5 centimetres. They spend much of their flying season perched in swamp vegetation, consuming other insects.

Early investigations have found that the giant dragonfly and other threatened species live in the coastal upland swamps along Picton Road. Minimising impacts to these threatened species and preserving the function and important role of the coastal upland swamps will be a key focus for the project team in developing design options through this highly sensitive environment.



Coastal upland swamps found along Picton Road

Drive safe on Picton Road

Slow down, save our cuddly friends! Are you aware of the risks that threaten koalas and motorists alike? See how you can help protect these adorable, iconic creatures while keeping yourself safe on the road.

Scan the QR code for more info



By driving safely you can help protect koalas while keeping yourself safe on the road



Koala in a tree

Connecting with Country

The Picton Road upgrade is on Dharawal Country. Transport recognises and celebrates the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing culture, spiritual beliefs and connections to Country. Transport is continuing engagement with the Aboriginal community to create a site and community responsive artwork for integration into the design of the western section of the Picton Road upgrade.

Transport has recently finalised reports on the approach and findings of surveys, test excavations and additional predictive modelling within the central and eastern sections. The feedback highlighted the importance of regular and meaningful engagement with the Aboriginal community to ensure transparency and the protection of sacred sites and artefacts.

Transport continues to work closely with the Aboriginal community and Knowledge Holders, and over the coming months will carry out a number of arboricultural impact assessments as well as developing Designing with Country strategies to help guide and shape the way we work.



Woolyungah – Merrigong, our place between the mountains and the sea - artwork by Coomaditchie Elders, Aunty Lorraine and Aunty Narelle, from Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation.

Picton bypass update

The Picton bypass project has reached a key milestone with the tender for the development of the concept design and Review of Environmental Factors now closed. The Australian and NSW governments are investing over \$18 million to carefully plan the proposed bypass of Picton town centre.

This project will help reduce traffic in Picton and make the area better for the community. It will create a quicker, more direct route between Remembrance Driveway and the Hume Motorway via Picton Road. The bypass will also make roads safer, improve travel reliability, and provide a backup route during emergencies like bushfires and floods.

Planning will look at many factors, including land conditions, biodiversity and Aboriginal heritage. On-site activity has commenced with ground investigations to start soon.

To learn more about the project and subscribe to project updates, visit www.transport.nsw.gov.au/pictonbypass or email the team on pictonbypass@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Next steps

- Continue to seek construction funding for the western section
- Start site investigations on the central and eastern sections
- Continue property acquisition and begin design for the relocation and protection of utilities for the western section.



Site investigations will start soon on the central and eastern sections

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To learn more about our project, please visit the project website



Interpreter service

For languages other than English please call 131 450

<https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/about-us/transport-privacy>