

Newell Highway Upgrade – heavy duty pavement upgrade (stage 1) Narrabri to Moree



Australian Government



Pictured: Stabilisation works in progress in Section 5 near Moree

The Australian and NSW Governments are funding Stage 1 of the Newell Highway heavy duty pavement upgrades between Narrabri and Moree. These upgrades will improve safety for motorists and reduce future maintenance requirements and costs.

Construction update

Since the commencement of construction in July last year, the project is well underway.

Construction is progressing in Section 3 at Bellata and Section 5 just south of Moree.

Section 3 - Bellata

We are pleased to have completed the relocation of service utilities in Bellata, including the realignment of powerlines to allow construction of the new pavement through the town on the western side of the highway.

We are continuing construction of pavement layers and drainage structures and a traffic switch has been in place since March to allow for construction on the eastern side of the highway.

Alternative arrangements are in place to access the BP Service Station and measures are in place for pedestrians to safely access the Bellata Post Office while work continues.

Section 5 – south of Moree

Pavement construction continues in Section 5 with a traffic switch now in place south of Moree near the airport, switching the traffic onto a new section of the highway.

Construction of bridge sized drainage structures is also underway at Clark's Gully with the upstream half of these works close to completion.

Earthworks, drainage and pavement construction has also commenced to facilitate the intersection upgrade at Wallanol road.

Newell Highway upgrade

Supporting local jobs and businesses

Up to 400 staff and sub-contractors have worked on the project to date, with a focus on Aboriginal participation and locally employed staff.

Local businesses have been sourced to supply concrete and quarry products, electrical and plumbing services, truck, plant and equipment hire, accommodation, catering, cleaning, traffic control and safety equipment.

Businesses such as MFAS Safety Equipment at Moree has been a go-to for local supplies of safety equipment for this project.

With work starting soon in Section 2, there will be multiple opportunities available in the Narrabri area including construction, labouring and administration roles.

Local businesses can also still offer goods and services to the project by contacting the project team on **1800 741 636** (# option 3) or by emailing newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au



Pictured: Fulton Hogan Safety Manager Kim Hunter with MFAS Safety Equipment Owner Linus Bouliopoulos



Pictured: Daisy Nguyen, owner of Daisy's Place at Moree supplying catering and food to Fulton Hogan and contractor staff



Pictured left to right: Trainee Fred McGrady and Construction Supervisor Josh Dennehy

Meet the team – Trainee Fred McGrady

Twenty years after leaving his Moree Plains birthplace, Fred McGrady is back in his home town with his extended family and working on his 'dream' job.

Fred, who hails from a well-known northern NSW family, was six months into a job with a sub-contractor on Section 5 of the Newell Highway Upgrade when he was recruited for a full-time permanent traineeship with Fulton Hogan.

What do you love about your role?

It is home, which is the best feeling in the world, but it's also the best fun to work with such a great crew.

I do all sorts of things; fencing, I fuel trucks, install barriers and lay mesh. It's tough work but I love every bit of it.

I'm hitting my late 40s, but I am also just hitting my straps in regards to my career.

Do you have any advice for other people considering traineeships?

It's never too late to make a new career start and get some new skills.

I've always been proud of Moree and my indigenous heritage. I've come back home after years working away and I'm trying to uplift the local young fellas and girls and show them if you work really hard you can get what you want.

Traffic changes

With additional works on the Newell Highway between Narrabri and Moree, including heavy patching works in response to ongoing flood recovery, motorists are advised to plan their trip and expect ongoing traffic delays.

For the safety of workers and motorists, traffic control including lane closures, alternating stop/slow and reduced speed limits of 40km/h will be in place during work hours at various locations.

Motorists are advised to drive to the conditions and always follow the directions of signs and traffic control.

Sharing the road with wide load vehicles

With ongoing changed traffic conditions associated with the Newell Highway Upgrade, motorists are reminded to be on the lookout for wide loads particularly when approaching narrow lanes.

Wide loads consisting of large farm machinery are regularly using the highway to move between properties.

Be aware that the combination of road works and wide loads can cause some delays while travelling, so please be patient, plan ahead and allow for extra travel time.



Pictured: Wide load header and pilot escort using a pullover bay south of Moree

Tips for travelling safely

Plan your trip via Live Traffic

Be aware of construction impacts and associated delays by planning ahead and checking Live Traffic and allowing sufficient travel time. Visit www.livetraffic.com.au to plan your trip.

Over-size Over-Mass (OSOM) vehicles

Vehicles over 3.8 metres wide require a pilot vehicle and need to notify the contractor on **1800 741 636** (Option #3) and UHF 34 once you approach the project alignment between Moree and Narrabri to advise of your approach.

Notify us ahead of your trip on **1800 741 636** (Option #3) or email NewellHighwayWideLoads@fultonhogan.com.au ahead of your journey so that arrangements can be planned within the construction area to minimise delays. Use pull over bays provided and follow direction of signage.

Stop, revive, survive

Plan your rest stops and take a break every two hours.

Visit nswroads.work/restareas to be aware of rest areas impacted by construction activities.

Slow down and be patient

Be aware that there are larger vehicles around and share the road.

Follow the direction of signage and traffic control.

Recycling centre at Narrabri

With a hungry crew of nearly 400 staff on the ground to service the project, it's become evident there is a wealth of food scraps, bottles and cans at the project site offices at Moree and Bellata ripe for recycling.

With that in mind, more than 1000 cans and bottles have been collected from site and sent to Challenge Business Services for recycling.

Challenge Recycling is a unique organisation set up in 1992, that employs more than 40 people with a disability at recycling centres in Narrabri and Tamworth.



Pictured: Narrabri Waste Facility with inspection attendees from Fulton Hogan, Cleanaway and Transport for NSW

Bellata Utility Works

To enable the next stage of construction, a series of planned power outages were scheduled and completed in Bellata (Section 3) to allow for the relocation of power lines and the construction of new pavement.

After consultation with local stakeholders and residents, including a community session held in January, Transport and Fulton Hogan established a respite centre at the Bellata Golf Club providing residents with an option to access the internet and refreshments in an air-conditioned space.

Works were successfully carried out from February to April with the planned 18 power outages reduced to 12 outages. An additional two power outages are anticipated in coming months. We appreciate the community's patience and understanding during these important works.



Pictured left to right: Sharala Ramsey and Sandi Cullen at a community feedback session in Bellata

Stop. Look. Think. Cross Safely.

Safety tips for pedestrians during construction work

As part of the upgrade, work is continuing in Section 3 at Bellata significantly impacting traffic movements in, and around the area.

Pedestrians should follow the signs and directions of traffic controllers.

When there is no pedestrian crossing, use these tips to cross safely.

STOP

Before you cross the road, stop at a safe distance back from the kerb.

LOOK

Look both ways for approaching vehicles before you cross the road. As you cross, keep looking both ways and checking until safely across.

THINK

Is this a safe place to cross?

Never assume that an approaching vehicle can see you or will stop for you – wait until all vehicles have passed before you consider stepping off the kerb.

Make sure you can clearly see vehicles coming from both directions and make sure the driver can see you.

CROSS IF SAFE

Remember to always choose a safe place to cross the road. Avoid crossing between parked cars or at the front or back of large vehicles.

For more tips and information on staying safe, go to [safetytown.com.au](https://www.safetytown.com.au)

School holiday program for indigenous youth

During the school holidays, Transport and lead contractor Fulton Hogan sponsored renowned Gomeroi artist Mona Fernando Munro to run school holiday programs with local community organisation Miyay Birray, for indigenous children.

Activities included basket weaving with reeds collected along the Mehi River banks, a traditional indigenous practice in the region incorporating gum nuts and feathers.

In appreciation of Transport and Fulton Hogan's involvement in the holiday program, Mona and Uncle Lloyd Munro presented two pieces of art to the project team. The paintings by Mona represent the Moree area's totem, the goanna, and the python which is the totem for Mungindi, Mona's home Country.



Pictured: Fulton Hogan and Transport project team members, assisting artist Mona Fernando Munro and Miyay Birray with their school holiday program

Project Features

Stage 1 of the heavy duty pavement upgrade project includes upgrading four priority sections along the Newell Highway with new road pavement, intersection improvements, widening of road shoulders and the provision of five additional overtaking lanes.

The project will also upgrade drainage structures to improve flood immunity for the highway.

This work is important given the project is located in a black soil flood zone, which is regularly impacted by flood events.



Pictured: Traffic switch in Section 3 in Bellata



Improving
safety



Improving
road alignment



640 jobs during
construction

Intersection upgrade improvements

As part of the project, we are upgrading a number of intersections along the alignment which will improve safety for local residents and farmers, bus drivers and service providers who are required to enter and exit side roads and properties.

The upgrades will also provide improved visibility of vehicles exiting side roads for motorists already travelling on the highway.

Excavation and earthworks are being carried out to construct new intersections at Wallanol Road, Millie Road, Wilga Street and a number of other side streets in Bellata.

The project team will be working to ensure road user delays are limited as far as practical and ensure property accesses are maintained for local traffic.



Pictured: Millie Road intersection upgrade in progress

Stay informed

Keep up to date with the latest project news via our website and signing up to our e-newsletter at nswroads.work/n2m.



Next Steps

Work will continue in Section 3 and Section 5. Work will also commence in Section 2 in coming weeks. Initial activities include the installation of barriers to prepare for the construction of two kilometres of pavement upgrade about 15 kilometres north of Narrabri.

For the safety of workers and motorists, traffic control including lane closures, alternating stop/ slow and reduced speed limits of 40km/h will be in place when the work is being carried out.

Construction activities in Section 1 near Narrabri are expected to commence by late 2023.

We will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses.



Pictured: Drainage works in section 3 Bellata

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more on the Newell Highway heavy duty pavement upgrade project, please contact our project team:



1800 741 636 (option #3)



newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au



nswroads.work/n2m



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