



Transport for NSW



Newell Highway Upgrade

heavy duty pavement upgrade (Stage 1)
Narrabri to Moree

Narrabri & District Chamber of Commerce Briefing
4 October 2022

[Transport.nsw.gov.au](https://transport.nsw.gov.au)

22.247

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and peoples of the Gomeroi Nation, and pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which this project will be built, especially Elders, past and present and acknowledge other Aboriginal people attending this session today.



Project Overview

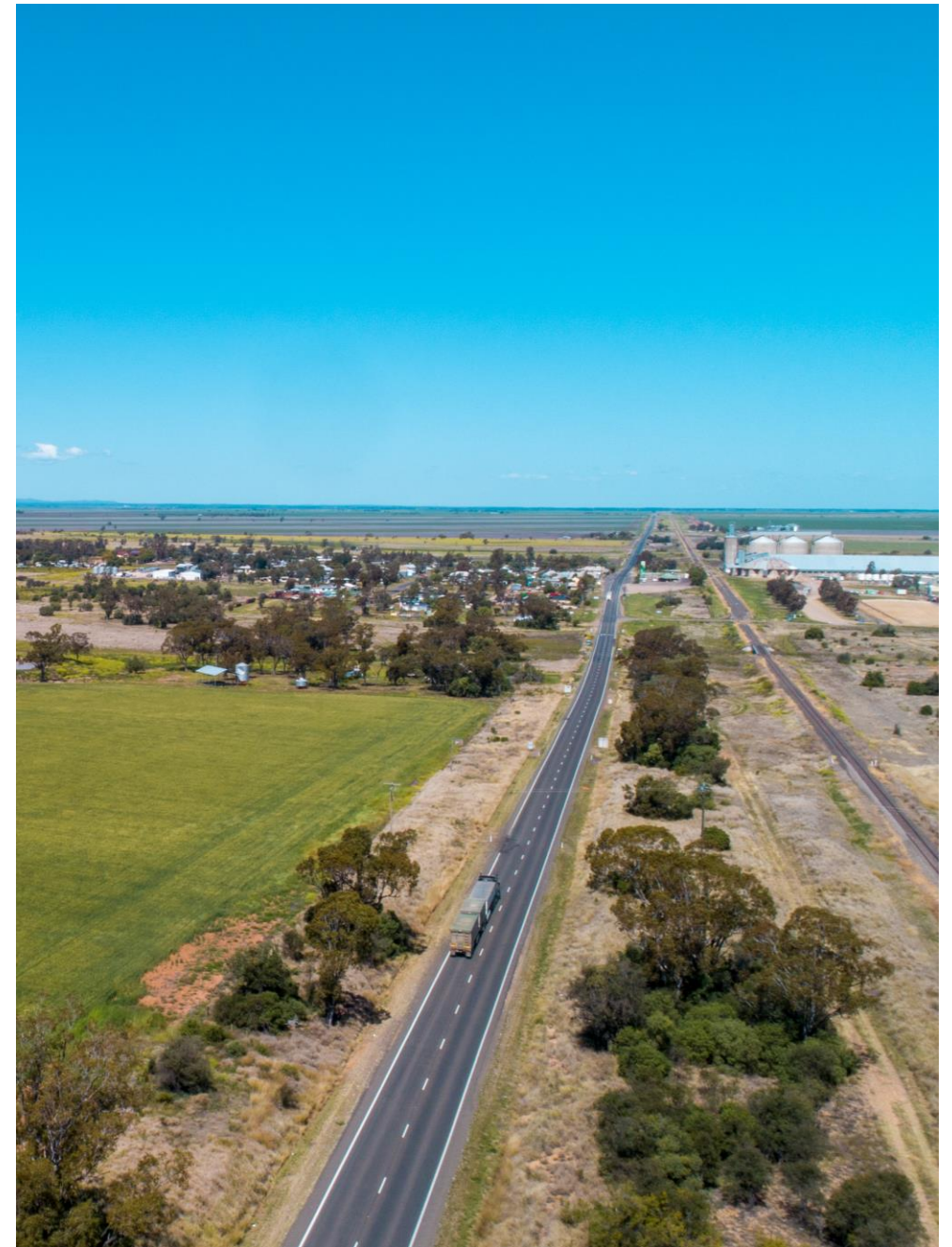
The Australian and NSW Governments are investing \$261.17 million in Stage 1 of the Heavy Duty Pavement Upgrade (HDPU) between Narrabri and Moree under the Newell Highway Upgrade program.

The project includes the construction of two new heavy vehicle rest areas.

Funding Breakdown for Stage 1

Australian Government \$205.73 million

NSW Government \$55.44 million.



Project Scope

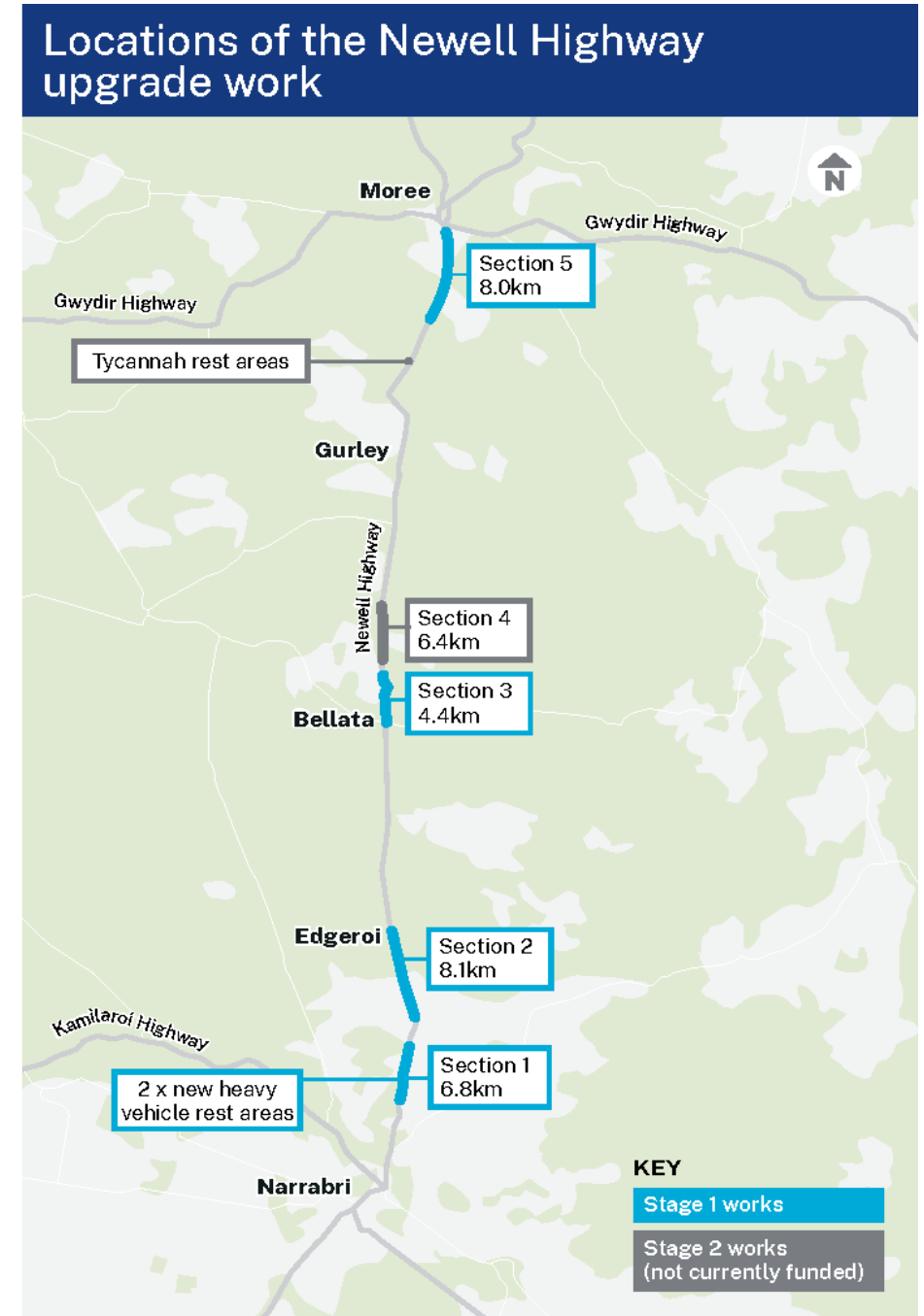
Stage 1

Stage 1 works involve heavy duty pavement upgrades along four sections of the Newell Highway, a total length of 27.3 kilometres which will improve connectivity for all users of the road.

Two new heavy vehicle rest areas will also be constructed in section 1 utilising the redundant pavement from realignment.

Stage 2

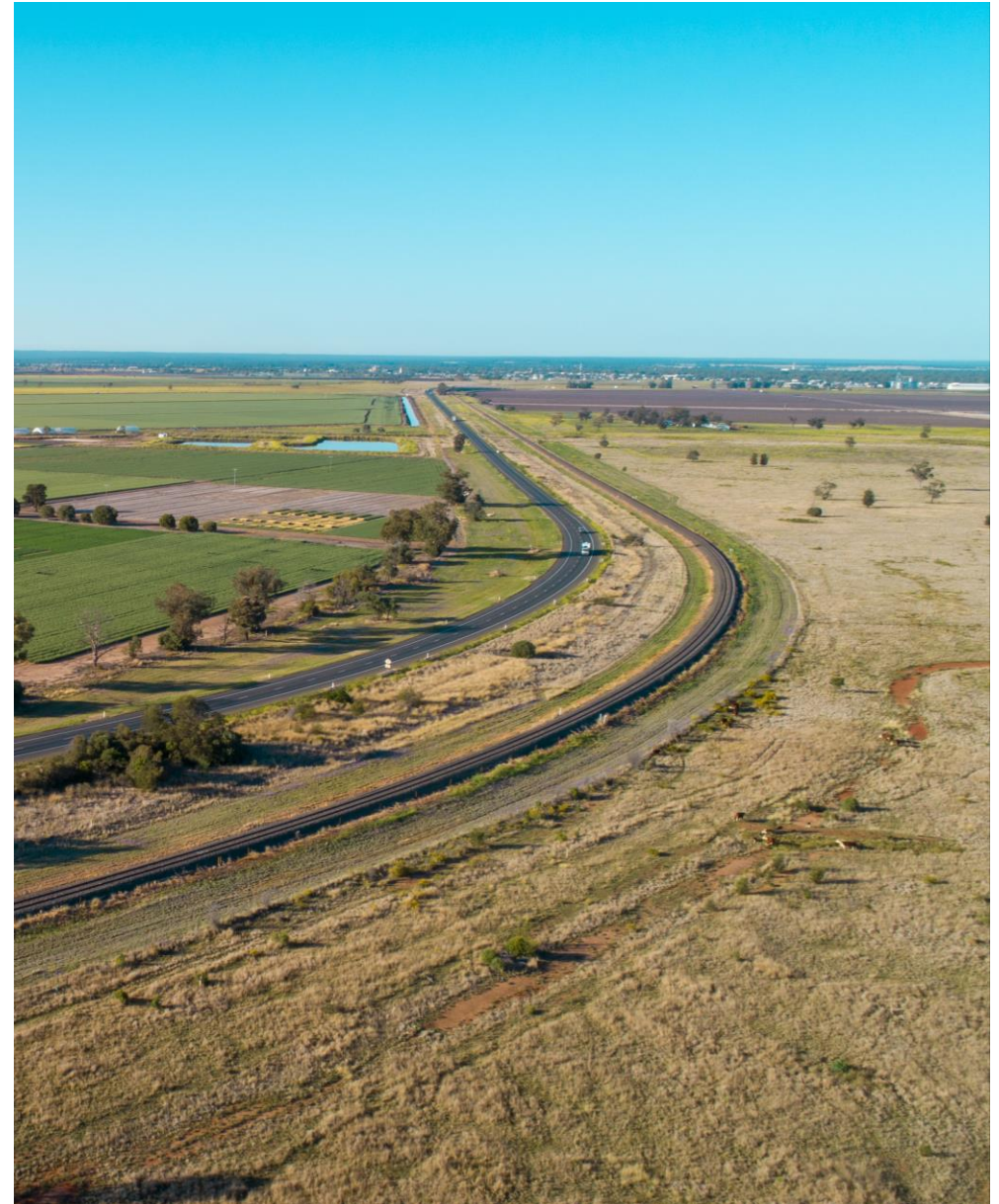
Stage 2 (not currently funded) includes 6.4kms of heavy duty pavement upgrades in section 4 and upgrading the existing Tycannah rest areas between section 4 and section 5.



Project Benefits

Heavy Duty Pavement Upgrades

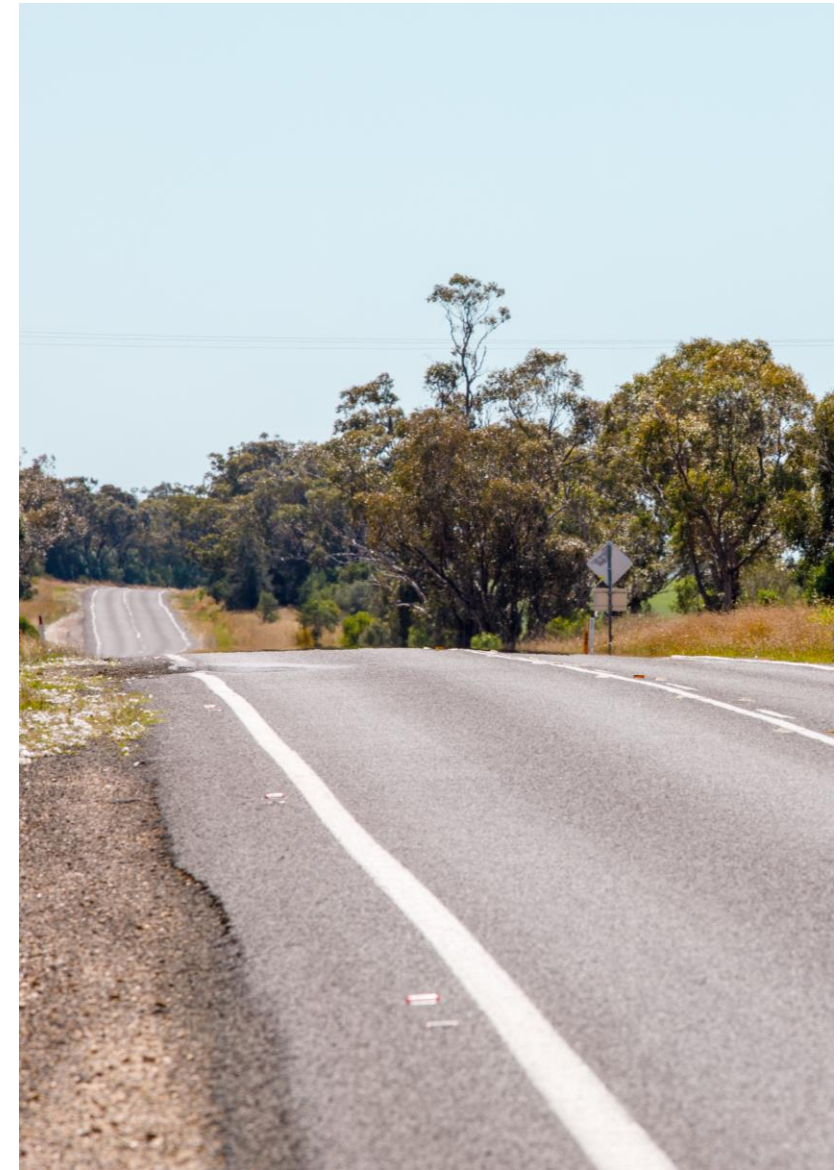
- Increase travel reliability between Narrabri and Moree.
- Reduce travel times between Narrabri and Moree.
- Reduce the cost of maintenance along the Newell Highway.
- Reduce vehicle operating costs on the Newell Highway.
- Improve road safety for road users.
- Improve flood immunity of the Newell Highway between Narrabri and Moree.
- Improve freight productivity and access to the Moree Special Activation Precinct and Narrabri In-land Port.
- The project is expected to create 640 new jobs during construction



Project Features

Stage 1

- Provide a heavy duty pavement to meet the existing and future freight needs
- 3.5m lanes, 2m shoulders, and 1m wide centreline cross section
- provide new 1.5km long dedicated overtaking lanes in five locations
- upgrade intersections and right turning lanes
- retain or improve the 110km design speed alignments
- improve access to private property and bus stop layouts.
- Upgrade of drainage structures to improve flood immunity for the highway.
- Construction of 2 x new heavy vehicle rest areas in Section 1
- Utility relocations



Construction Schedule

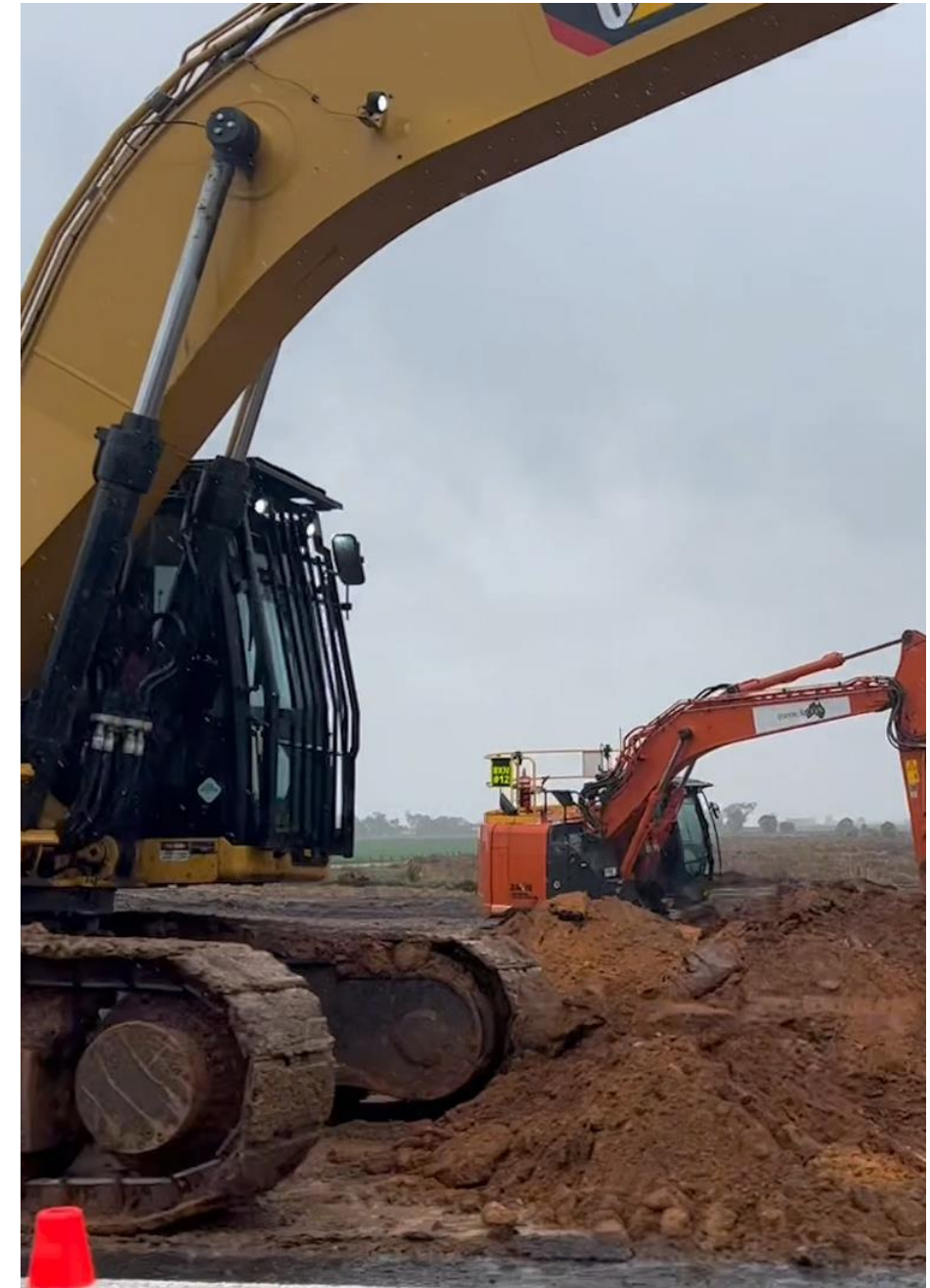
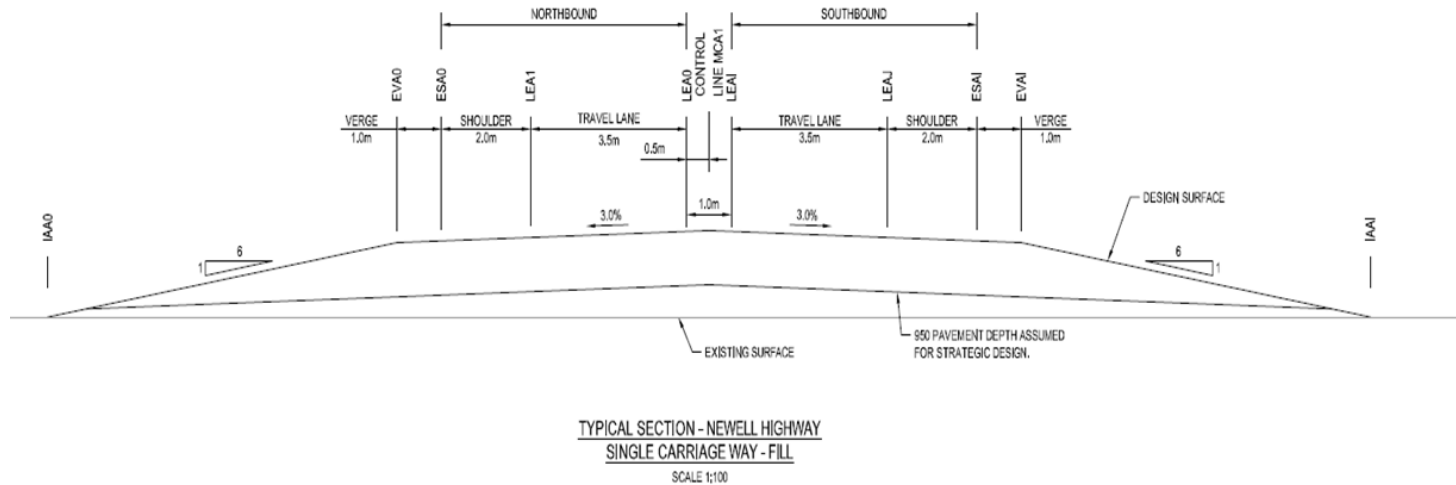
Construction is now underway. Fulton Hogan commenced work in Section 5 and Section 3 just south of Moree, then working north to south along the alignment from Moree to Narrabri.

Section	Starting
5	Started mid 2022
3	Started mid 2022
2	Late 2022
1	Mid 2023



Construction Period

181 week construction period = estimated 3.5 year project (July 2022 – Jan 2026)



Start of Work announcement –18 July 2022



Key construction activities

Current work activities include:

- Site compounds established just south of Moree (Section 5 and 3)
- Vegetation clearing across alignment
- Installation boundary fencing along new corridor
- Stripping topsoil and preparing pavement foundations
- Installation of barriers in Section 5 and 3 to make construction site safe– mid October



Managing environmental impacts

- Arborists and ecologists will install 14 nesting boxes at strategic locations
- The nest boxes will likely be used by owls, parrots, gliders and microbats.
- The boxes will be tailored to suit specific species
- We will continue to work with community and stakeholders to ensure protection of bird and wildlife native to the project area



Keeping our stakeholders informed – June - September

- Project updates to LEMC and Councils
- Quarterly community updates – latest edition was June, next one is due October
- eNewsletter distributed monthly
- Live Traffic, project website and VMS boards promoting expected delays
- Traffic Alerts and notification letters issued to affected residents and stakeholders regarding start of work activities
- Information sessions and workshops held with targeted community groups, businesses and residents



Bellata information session

- Local community session held at the Bellata Golf Club
- Opportunity for local residents to meet and chat with Transport and Fulton Hogan project staff about construction impacts.
- Section 3 of the project, which includes a 4.4km realignment at Bellata, will see improved intersections and pavement upgrades through the centre of town.
- Over 20 people attended the information session on the 11 August.



Jobs and local participation

- 640 new jobs supported during construction for the full project scope. Fulton Hogan will directly employ around 140 people.
- Transport supports the inclusion of many local suppliers and workers as possible.
- APIC Targets = 1.5 % contract value, 12% full-time positions to be undertaken by Indigenous employees
- 2 x local skills and job seeker networking sessions for regional businesses and sole traders – over 70 people attended



We are still keen to hear from local businesses – email us newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au

Moree Careers Expo

- On Thursday 28 July we attended a careers expo in Moree engaging with 200 students from across the North West.
- The event provided a great opportunity to learn about future opportunities at Transport as part of the Apprentice and Trainee Program.
- Fulton Hogan also connected with students and training organisations about School-Based Apprentice and Traineeship (SBAT) opportunities being offered as part of the project
- Currently in the process of recruiting apprentices – expecting 4 school based trainee and 4 apprentice roles to be recruited

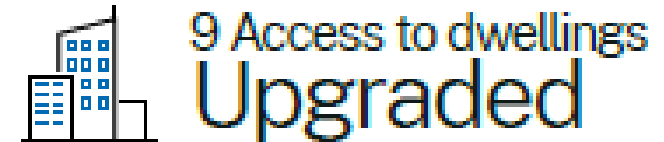


Key issues highlighted from community

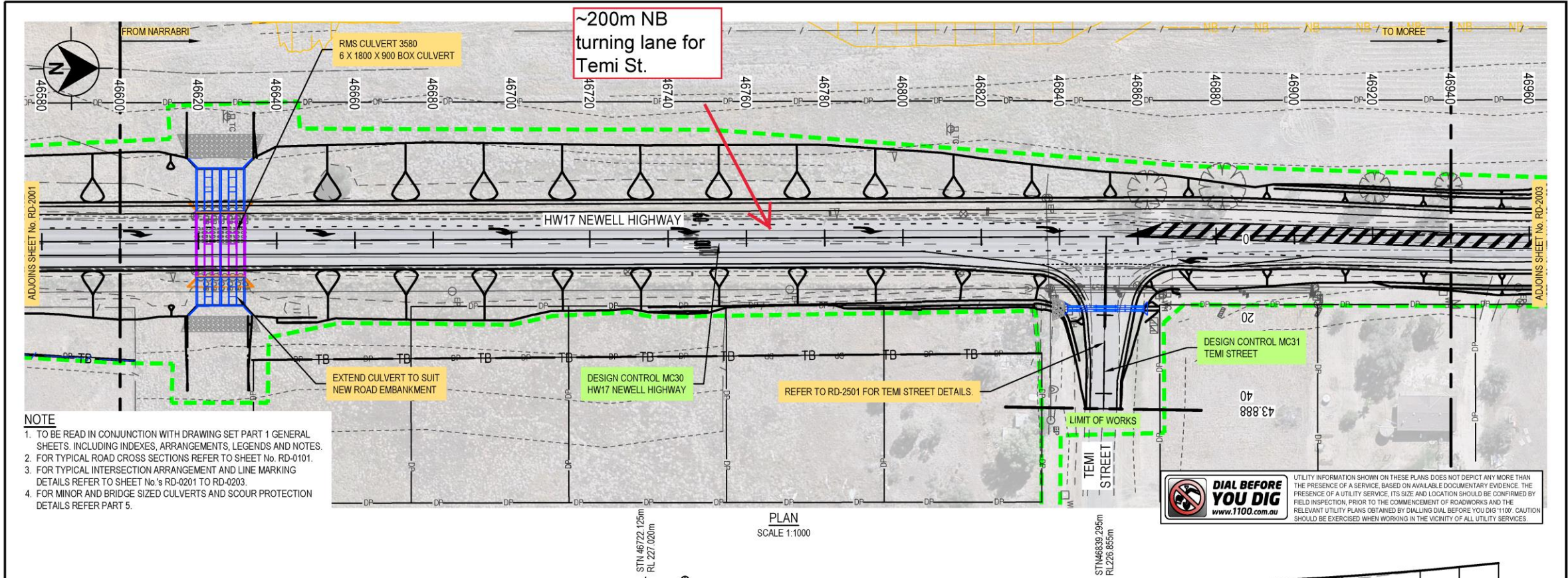
What is happening with bus stops and private property accesses along the corridor?

The N2M Upgrade will include:

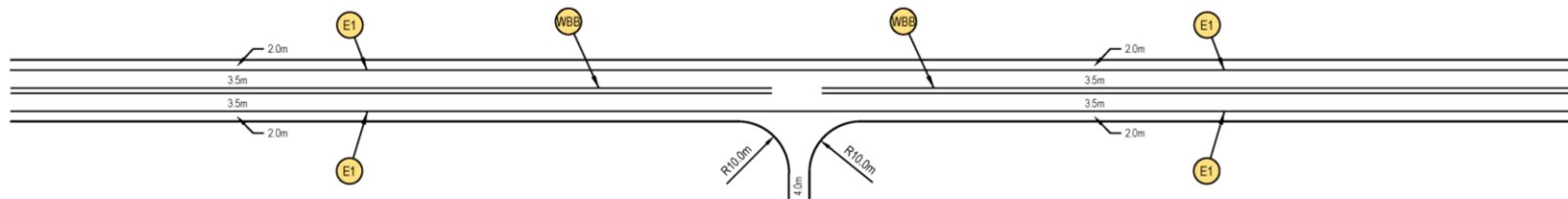
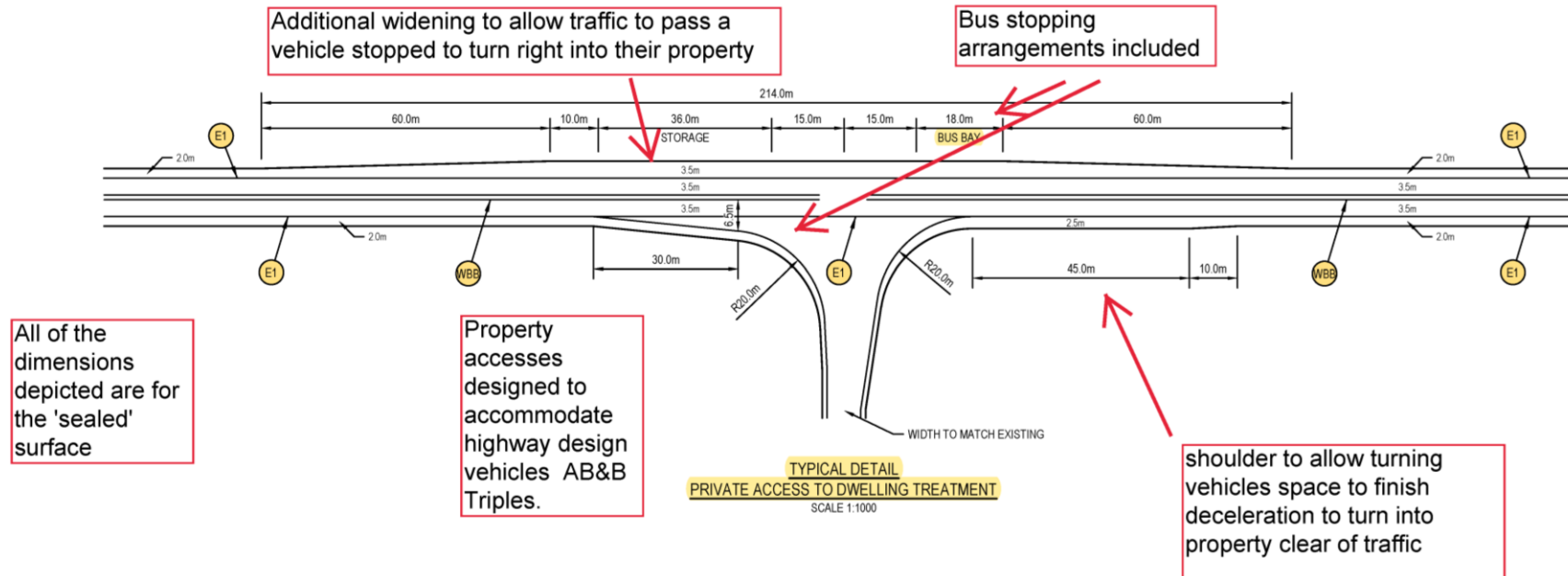
- 15 intersections upgraded along the alignment
- several public and private access upgraded with bus stops provided where it is safe, providing better visibility



Typical intersection treatment



Typical private access upgrade



TYPICAL DETAIL
RAILWAY ACCESS / FARM ACCESS / STOCKPILE ACCESS
SCALE 1:1000

Key issues highlighted from community

Traffic delays and changing speed limits

- Real time cumulative estimated journey time displayed on VMS boards at Narrabri and Moree
- Information on Live Traffic so people can plan ahead
- Review of current speed limits and conducted audit of site visibility



Key issues highlighted from community

Harvest impacts

- With harvest season approaching, there will be increased traffic along the Newell Highway between Narrabri and Moree including harvest trucks and farm machinery at Bellata in particular.
- The project team are working with key stakeholders such as GrainCorp and farmers to minimise traffic impacts where possible.
- Transport is also liaising with Trans4m Rail who are working on the Narrabri to North Star section of Inland Rail within the Newell Highway corridor to help limit impacts on harvest activities



Harvest workshop held in Bellata – 1 September

Attended by local farmers, GrainCorp and business owners to discuss plans to minimise impacts that construction may have on harvest movements throughout the season.

Key issues discussed included:

- ✓ Minimising delays for producers and freight operators during peak harvest periods
- ✓ Maintaining two lane traffic flows on the Newell would be essential for harvest operations
- ✓ Millie Road is a crucial link to Grain Corp receival site and must be harvest ready



What we are going to do

- Maintain 2-way traffic flow within construction sites where possible
- Rescheduling activities that will impact lane closures such as barrier installation, prior to harvest
- Provide additional traffic control (if required) within the construction area to help maintain traffic flow and prevent stacking on the Newell
- Provide relevant, timely communication regarding traffic impacts to local farmers via GrainCorp's communication channels
- Targeted communications to OSOM vehicles (over 3.8m width) to contact our project team ahead of time so that access can be managed through the construction site without delays.
- Communicate key safety messages for all motorists



Slow down, be patient and share the road this harvest season

Interface with projects along the corridor

- Multiple projects occurring along the Newell Highway including ARTC's inland rail project.
- Delay of up to 15 minute delays should be expected
- Transport and Fulton Hogan will continue to have regular interface meetings with Inland Rail to coordinate works and minimise delays.



Key Contacts



nswroads.work/n2m



1800 741 636 (option 3)



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Summary / Q&A

