

# Heavy Duty Pavement Upgrade, Narrabri to Moree

## Newell Highway Upgrade

August 2024



Australian Government

**BUILDING AUSTRALIA**



Looking south towards Bellata in Section 3

The Australian and NSW Governments are jointly funding the \$261.17 million Newell Highway heavy duty pavement upgrades between Narrabri and Moree.

### What's happening now?

It has been another busy year on the Newell Highway upgrades between Narrabri and Moree with construction work continuing in all four sections, particularly ramping up in Sections 1 and 2 near Narrabri. Foundation and earth works have commenced on the new major rest area which is located 12 kilometres north of Narrabri.

In Section 1 and 2, pavement and excavation works are continuing and the first stage of drainage works has now been completed.

In Section 2 at Edgeroi, work has progressed to widen stage one of the pavement and traffic has been switched on to temporary new pavement to safely facilitate the work.

The project has also reached a major milestone with Sections 3 (Bellata) and 5 (south of Moree) now close to completion, with remaining works in these sections to be completed by late 2024. The project is expected to be completed by early 2026.

### In this update

- Construction progress
- Celebrating Aboriginal participation
- NAIDOC Week activities
- Prioritising safety and managing journeys

# Construction Progress



## What we have achieved

In Section 3 (Bellata) and 5 (south of Moree), we have now completed:

- two new overtaking lanes northbound and southbound
- 12.4 kilometres of new road pavement and widened shoulders
- stormwater drainage works
- installation of line marking, guard rails and permanent road signs in Section 5
- new bridge sized drainage structures at Clarks Gully
- improvements to private property and bus stops
- relocation of service utilities in Bellata.



Padfoot Roller compacting soil in Section 2

## Next steps

In Section 3 (Bellata) and 5 (south of Moree) remaining works include:

- kerb and guttering works, landscaping and final pavement works including asphalt in Bellata
- asphalt work near Halls Creek Bridge, south of Moree
- installation of street lighting in Bellata
- the completion of the northbound overtaking lane and eight intersection upgrades.

We acknowledge the impact the construction has had particularly on the Bellata community and we thank them for their patience during this time.



Installing new guard rail in Section 5 north of Clarks Gully

## New major heavy vehicle rest area

The Newell Highway provides a major connection between Queensland, NSW and Victoria, and is vital for freight movements, connecting communities and supporting tourism.



NSW Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Jenny Aitchison inspecting the rest area site with the project team in July

Located 12 kilometres north of Narrabri, the new rest area will feature:

- 18 heavy vehicle parking spaces up to 48.5 metres long providing for short- and long-term parking
- 10 light vehicle and caravan parking spaces for short-term parking
- toilet facilities
- picnic shelters and solar lighting
- rubbish bins, and
- tree planting and landscaping.

Once completed, the rest area will provide more opportunities for drivers to rest and manage fatigue, providing safer journeys for all motorists.

# Celebrating Aboriginal participation

92

Aboriginal people employed – including seven full-time staff and 85 sub-contractors or labour hire personnel

4

Aboriginal businesses engaged

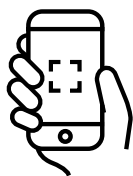
over \$2.4 million

spent on Aboriginal employment, significantly exceeding the required total project spend

The project is ahead of schedule in Aboriginal participation targets, exceeding our employment goals. This highlights our commitment to a diverse workforce in the region where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents make up a significant part of the community. The team will continue to engage and collaborate with the local Aboriginal community as the project progresses.



Proud Gomerioi man – Aaron Saunders, Environment Coordinator, Fulton Hogan



## Stay up to date

Keep up to date with the latest project news via our website and signing up to our e-newsletter at [nswroads.work/n2m](https://nswroads.work/n2m).

# NAIDOC Week activities



Project team with Uncle Lloyd Munro at the jewellery making workshop

As part of NAIDOC Week activities (7-14 July) the project team spent time with some local children at the Shae Academy in Moree during a school holiday jewellery making workshop facilitated by Mona and Uncle Lloyd Munro.

“Providing in-kind support to community initiatives such as this workshop, is important and we feel privileged to be invited to come and participate,” said Fulton Hogan Stakeholder Manager Brendan Barrett.

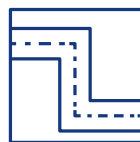
## Did you know?

To date the project has used:



2,400

cubic metres of structural concrete



4,200

tonnes of asphalt



280,000

cubic metres of earth moved in general earth works



500,000

tonnes of pavement material and gravels

# Prioritising safety and managing journeys

## Managing your journey

As construction continues throughout the project site, traffic conditions will continue to change.

Transport acknowledges the disruption that road works can cause, and every effort continues to be made to prioritise traffic flow (at a reduced speed) through our worksites.

As part of our focus on reducing end of queue collisions, we urge all drivers to stay extra vigilant around roadworks, and when approaching and/or stopped in a queue, please activate hazard lights to alert approaching vehicles of stopped traffic.

Motorists are encouraged to plan ahead, check **Live Traffic at [livetraffic.com](https://www.livetraffic.com)** or download the **Live Traffic NSW App**, and allow extra travel time when you are travelling between Narrabri and Moree.



End of queue example with traffic stopped at temporary traffic lights



An Oversize Overmass vehicle travelling on the Newell Highway at Bellata

## Helpful tips to keep you safe

Take extra care when driving around Oversize Overmass (OSOM) vehicles as well as trucks and agricultural vehicles particularly during harvest season.

Follow these helpful tips to keep you safe:

- OSOM vehicles, trucks and agricultural vehicles may move slowly. Take care and be patient
- don't try and overtake until it's safe
- if you see a pilot vehicle, it means an oversize vehicle is approaching. Reduce your speed and move safely to the left, where possible. Oversize vehicles need extra space
- oversize vehicles have blind spots and may not see you. Take extra care
- heavy vehicles may have trailers attached and can be longer than expected. Take care when changing lanes
- plan your rest stops and take a break every two hours. Visit [nswroads.work/restareas](https://nswroads.work/restareas).

## Contact us



Project Infoline **1800 741 636 (option#2)**



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