Frequently Asked Questions

Windang Bridge rehabilitation work on Lake Illawarra

The NSW Government is funding this $2.5 million rehabilitation project to carry out pier scour prevention work on Windang Bridge at Lake Illawarra.

**Why are we doing this work?**

Windang Bridge crosses Lake Illawarra and carries two lanes traffic in each direction and is a major bridge connecting Shellharbour and Wollongong Local Government Areas.

Changes have been observed to the lake bed profile since the opening of the lake to the ocean in 2007. We have conducted in-depth monitoring and observed an increase amount of scour (erosion) at the northern end of the bridge.

We will carry out remediation work to prevent further scour on the bridge piles.

This work is essential to keep the bridge and road safe and open to traffic in the long term.

**How will the work affect me?**

Rehabilitation work will be carried out from 19 August, between 7am and 5pm between Monday and Friday and 7am to 1pm on Saturdays with no work being carried out on Sundays or public holidays.

There will be minimal impact to motorists during monitoring work carried out throughout the project.

Monitoring work will be carried out under lane closures on Wednesdays (southbound only) and Thursdays (northbound only) between 7.30am and 3pm.

The project is expected to be completed in three months by November 2019, weather permitting.

**What work will be carried out?**

Work will involve placing rocks from barges on the sand bed at the north end of Windang Bridge via a rock stockpile on Fern Street and from a second stockpile on Judbooley Parade.

This work is to decrease scour on pylons and to reduce ongoing bridge maintenance.

**Will the rocks be visible in the water?**

The rock placement will be visible when the water is clear and at the lowest tidal level.

The rock placement will not affect boating activities and will have at least 3.8 metres water depth at the lowest tidal level.

**What monitoring and investigation work will be carried out?**

Investigation work has been carried out on Windang Bridge to provide information on the properties of the lake bed.

Additional monitoring equipment, survey prisms and strain gauges have been installed onto the underside of Windang Bridge to collect important bridge and load data. We will continue to monitor the bridge up to three times per week during the maintenance work.

**What work will be carried out and why are there barges in the water?**

Work will be carried out from barges located at the northern end of Windang Bridge.

An excavator will be used to place the rocks from the barges around the bridge piles to help prevent further scour.

The barges are used to transport the rocks to the bridge rehabilitation site.

We will be carrying out the work this way to minimise the impact to motorists and the community.

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Will the boat ramp be closed?
No, the boat ramp will not be closed.
The channel will remain open for lake users and boat ramp will be accessible at all hours.
Users of the boat ramp will notice additional truck movements on Fern Street throughout the project, to allow for the delivery of rock stockpiles to the temporary site offices.

Will residents still be able to access their properties?
There will be no impact to residents’ property access during this work.
There may be some noise associated with this work due to rock placement and additional truck movements.

Will the shared paths be open on Windang Bridge?
Yes. Pedestrians and cyclists will have full access to the shared paths on Windang Bridge during work times.
A short section of the shared path at the end of Judbooley Parade will be impacted. A temporary shared path will be in place at the northern end of the western side of the bridge.
Pedestrians and cyclists are advised to keep to the new temporary path and to follow the direction of signage.

We remind the public that jumping into the water from Windang Bridge is prohibited due to safety reasons.

Fishing from Windang Bridge is also prohibited to ensure the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, bridge traffic and waterway users passing under the bridge.

The community is advised of changed conditions and should avoid fishing around the work site.

Will there be any impact to boating, fishing and recreational activities on Lake Illawarra?
Work will be carried out on the waterway and in Fern Street.

There will be changed conditions to the lake during work hours including limited access on waterways around and underneath the bridge and the community should avoid fishing, boating and engaging in recreational activities around the work site.

What will you do to reduce the noise impact of this work?
There will be noise during maintenance work, and to reduce the impact on residents and lake users we are carrying out work during day shifts.

What are the future plans for Windang Bridge?
A working group is being formed between Roads and Maritime Services, Wollongong City Council, Shellharbour City Council, Crown Land, Maritime, Environment to gain feedback from the community to develop future plans for the lake and Windang Bridge.

We apologise for any inconvenience and will keep the community advised of changes to the bridge and future bridge maintenance plans.

Will the bridge be closed?
No, all maintenance work will be carried out under the bridge and the bridge will remain open to traffic at all times.

Who has been involved as part of the process?
We are speaking with local residents, Wollongong City Council, Shellharbour City Council, Maritime, Fisheries, Crown Lands, Office of Environment and Heritage and representatives from the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council.

How can I find further information about this project?
Visit our website for more information about the project and the rehabilitation work:
rms.work/windang-bridge.