Charleyong Bridge replacement
Community update
January 2019

The NSW and Australian Governments are jointly funding the replacement of Charleyong Bridge over the Mongarlowe River at Charleyong, north of Braidwood in New South Wales.

**Background**

The existing Charleyong Bridge is a single-span Allan truss timber bridge built in 1901. The bridge is proposed to be replaced as it does not meet current vehicle size needs and has become increasingly expensive to maintain.

The bridge is located on Main Road 92, a regionally important link for goods, quarried material and stock movement between Nowra, Braidwood and Canberra.

**Bridge construction**

Construction of the new Charleyong Bridge, upstream of the existing bridge, has begun. Once complete the new bridge will:

- Provide wider lanes and allow for much heavier and larger vehicles
- Increase safety and efficiency for all road users with 1km of sealed road approaches
- Improve connection with Nerriga Road, immediately west of the Tomboye Road intersection
- Strengthen freight connectivity on Main Road 92.
What’s been happening?
Since the tender for bridge construction was awarded to SRG Civil in November, the project team has:

- Completed early work on the road approaches to the bridge. This work was done by Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
- Established a site compound
- Developed fauna & flora protection measures, environmental controls and clearing works.

Traffic impacts
- We will be working **Monday to Friday between 7am and 6pm and Saturday between 8am and 1pm** for 15 months, weather permitting
- We will give advance notice of any work outside of these hours, including night work
- A reduced speed limit during work hours of 40km/h will be in place on Nerriga Road. Stop/slow traffic control will be needed at times to keep the work area safe.

What’s next?
Work over the coming months includes:

- Continuation of earthworks throughout the project area
- Installation of stormwater drains
- Road construction
- Construction of the new bridge piles.

The new bridge is expected to be opened in 2020, weather permitting.
How are we minimising environmental impacts?

Roads and Maritime Services is looking after the local environment. This involves:

- Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage sites
- Protecting wildlife corridors
- Environmental assessments for potential native animal habitats including Macquarie perch, Southern Myotis and the Eastern Bentwing-bat
- Monitoring of protected plant species
- Removal of weeds
- Consideration of bushfire risks
- Ongoing dust, noise and vibration management.

Macquarie perch spawning

The Mongarlowe River is home to the endangered Macquarie perch.

From October through to December this species starts its spawning run. During this time adult Macquarie perch will move from deeper and cooler water holes to the mouths of suitable feeder streams with warmer temperatures to reproduce.

We are committed to ensuring the reproductive cycle of this endangered species remains unaffected by the bridge replacement.

As a result, rigorous sediment controls are being implemented and we are in ongoing consultation with the Department of Primary Industries.

Microbat breeding habitat

A targeted-microbat survey carried out in March 2018 found no evidence of microbat roosting activity. However, the existing bridge supports a suitable Southern Myotis roosting and breeding habitat, with the Mongarlowe River providing a potential aquatic feeding area.

With this in mind, we have included two microbat habitat design features in the new bridge. This design was developed in consultation with a bat specialist.

The project is also implementing a Bat Management Plan during construction to minimise any potential impacts on bats within the project area.
Noise, dust and vibration mitigation

Noise, dust and vibration levels are being monitored.

Steps are being taken to minimise the impacts, such as break periods for noise and vibration work where required and spraying water over exposed earth work areas to reduce dust.

If you have any concerns regarding noise, dust and vibration during construction please contact the project team using the details on the right.

For more information

For more information about the Charleyong Bridge Replacement project please contact the project team

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