

# Windsor Bridge replacement project

## Community Update

March 2019



The NSW Government is building a new Windsor Bridge to provide a safe and reliable crossing of the Hawkesbury River at Windsor.

Major work on the Windsor Bridge replacement project started in September 2018. The new bridge is expected to be open to traffic in mid 2020.

### In this update:

- Work update
- Constructing the bridge
- Heritage update
- Environmental update

### The new bridge will:

- improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists
- improve traffic flow with wider lanes and shoulders
- withstand higher flood levels
- unify the open space in Thompson Square.

## Work update

Construction is progressing across the site with several key activities completed or in progress:

- Marine archaeological work
- Archaeological work in Thompson Square
- Rock lining protection placed on the riverbanks to protect them from future erosion
- Installed temporary jetty at the northern side to service the marine work
- Casting bed built for building and launching the new bridge
- Partial utility service relocation
- Piling work for the bridge abutments and foundations for retaining walls
- Piling work for the new bridge piers.



Work on the northern side of the river and the barge

## Constructing the new Windsor Bridge

### Early work

On the northern side, we are building the bridge abutment and a casting bed to manufacture the concrete sections which will form the bridge deck.

On the southern side of the river, we are constructing the foundations for the leading onto the new bridge. These approaches will include retaining walls and bridge abutments.

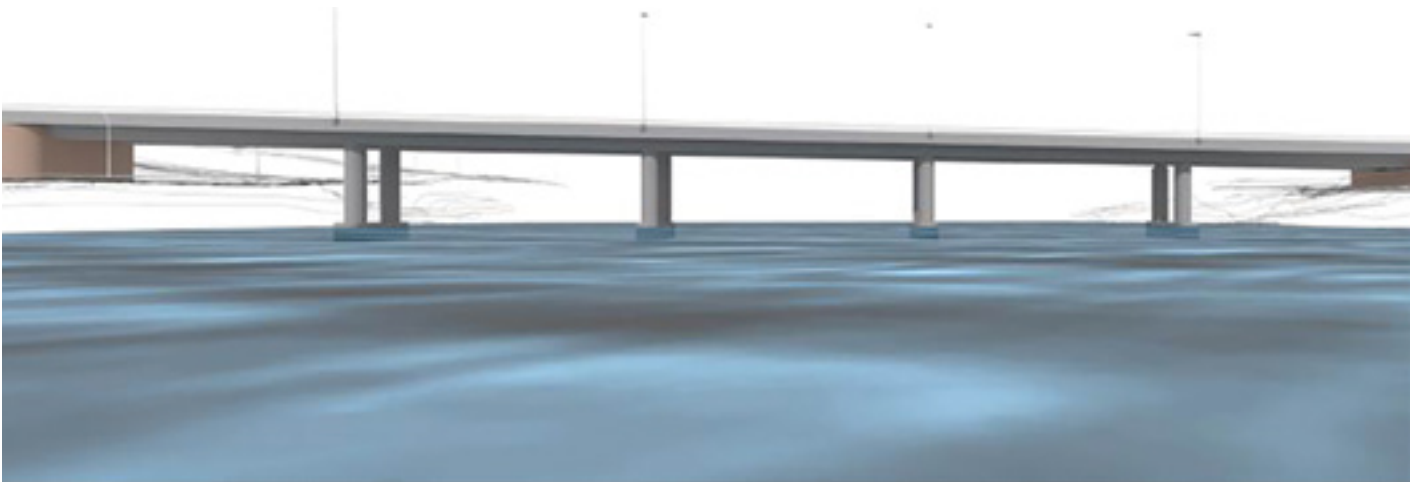
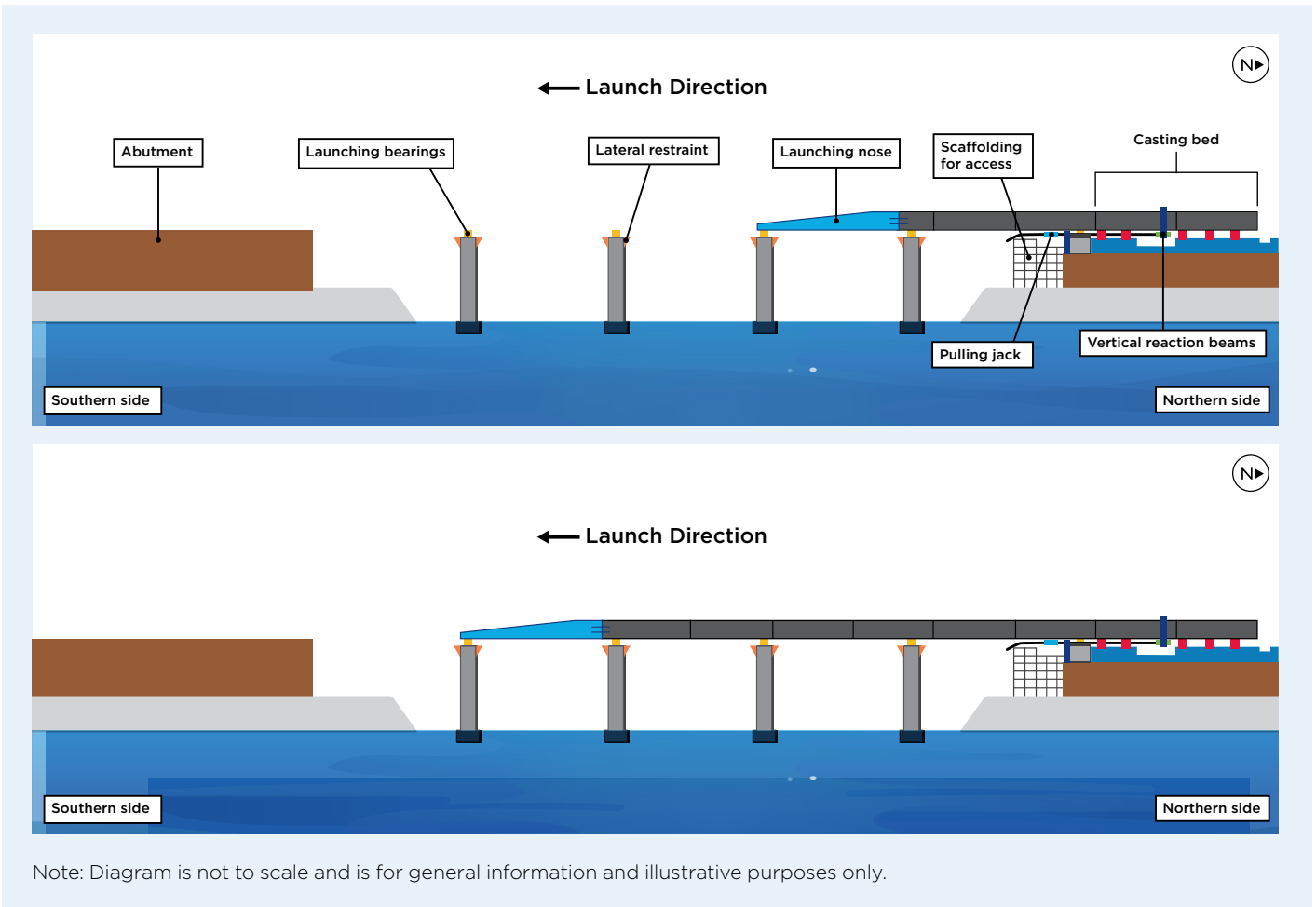
On the Hawkesbury River, a piling rig on the barge is installing the piles in the river. The piles will form the foundations of the new bridge piers, and are constructed from steel pile tubes filled with reinforced concrete.

### Constructing the bridge

The bridge will be constructed in 10 sections of about 16 metres each in length. Each section will be 'cast' from concrete in the casting bed on the northern side of the river. Once each concrete section is ready, it will be launched out over the embankment towards the southern side of the river.

The bridge construction will be followed by connecting the approach roads, adjusting services to the new bridge including water pipelines, electrical and telecommunication cables, removing the old bridge and landscaping.

# How the bridge will be built



Artist's impression of the completed bridge

## Environmental update

### Water dragons

As expected, several fauna species have been seen in the construction area, including a number of water dragons on the riverbank.

During work to protect the southern riverbank, water dragons were encouraged to leave the area without intervention, but a number continued to return.

Roads and Maritime Services engaged a fauna handler from Turtle Rescue NSW to safely relocate the water dragons to an alternative suitable location along the river. The handler caught and relocated 15 water dragons and 16 eastern water skinks from the work area, as well as another large water dragon living near the wharf.

All work on the project is carried out in accordance with the Flora and Fauna Management Plan, and a Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service (WIRES) representative or a suitably qualified ecologist is on site at all times to ensure no animals are harmed.

### Preserving the “Christmas Tree”

The beautiful “Christmas Tree” in Thompson Square is precious to the community and we would like to assure the community that the large Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) will remain in place and be protected.

Strict environmental controls are in place, as outlined in the EIS, Construction Environmental Management Plans, and the Conditions of Approval from the Department of Planning and Environment. Only those trees necessary for the project are being removed.



Wildlife handler Kane Durrant relocating water dragons



The “Christmas Tree” Hoop Pine in Thompson Square

## Heritage interpretation

Ensuring the heritage of the area is respected and preserved is a key component of this project. To date, we have carried out extensive archaeological work, both on land and within the riverbed. This large body of archaeological work has uncovered significant colonial and Aboriginal heritage items, as well as the barrel and box drains in Thompson Square.

The items uncovered as part of this archaeological work belong to the community, and will form the basis of the interpretation of the history of the area.

A heritage specialist has been appointed to develop the heritage interpretation strategy. As part of this process, a range of stakeholders will be consulted including Hawkesbury City Council, the local Museum, state and local heritage groups and other specialists. We will also continue to engage the local community throughout the process to ensure the heritage of the area is reflected and celebrated upon completion of the new bridge.

Interpretation of significant heritage items may include:

- signage
- photography and other images
- digital media
- oral histories
- museum displays
- appropriate use of the bricks salvaged from Thompson Square.

## Removing the old bridge

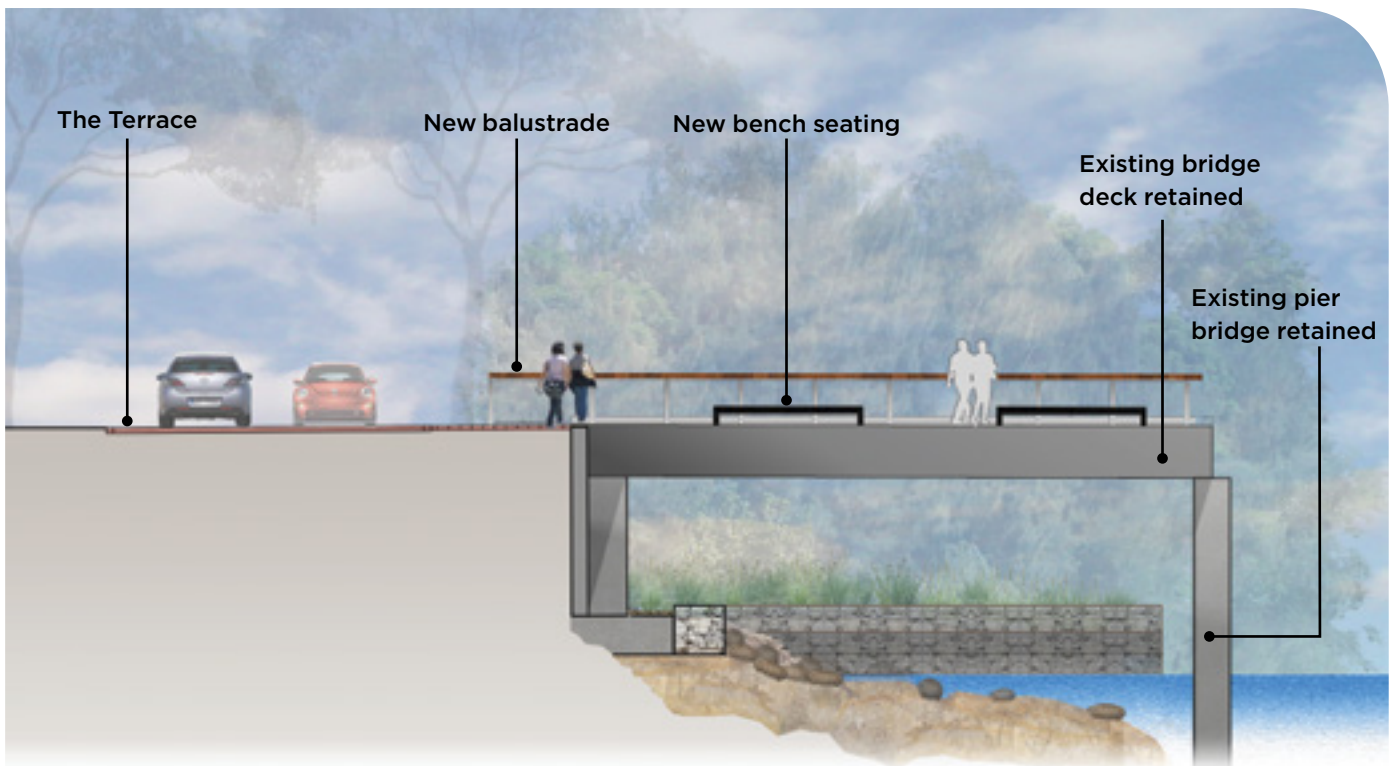
Once the new bridge is built, we will remove the old Windsor Bridge. The old bridge has reached the end of its useful life and does not meet current engineering and road safety standards. Due to structural deterioration, including cracking, corroding steel, and corroding cast iron piers, it is not viable to keep the bridge in place, as it would require extensive and costly repairs and ongoing maintenance. Having two bridges at this location would also restrict water flows during storms and increase flood levels upstream.

### A viewing platform for the community

We are planning to build a viewing platform on the southern side of the river, using the first span of the existing Windsor Bridge.

The platform will provide the community with an accessible vantage point to enjoy views across the Hawkesbury River, and the vistas of Thompson Square.

The viewing platform would acknowledge the heritage significance of the existing bridge, and would form a major part of the heritage interpretation plan. The platform includes a new balustrade, bench seating and historical interpretation signage. Retaining the viewing platform would not create any additional flooding impact.



Artist's impression of the viewing platform

## A shipwreck in Windsor

While excavating in the riverbed on the northern bank in mid-February, several timbers, some measuring almost 12 metres in length, were uncovered which have been assessed as coming from an old boat.

Marine archaeologists were called in to investigate the area and have found part of what is possibly a 19th century shipwreck. Cosmos Archaeology are leading a team of divers to record the findings and will advise on further actions. We will keep the community informed about the archaeological findings.

### Further information



[rms.nsw.gov.au/windsorbridge](https://rms.nsw.gov.au/windsorbridge)



[windsorbridge@georgiou.com.au](mailto:windsorbridge@georgiou.com.au)



1800 983 657



131 450

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Artist's impression of the proposed viewing platform



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