Changes to existing local boat ramp facility access during construction of the Batemans Bay Bridge

Why will access to our existing boat ramps be changed?

Transport for NSW is committed to maintaining access to the river for Clyde River users during and after construction.

To safely build the new Batemans Bay Bridge, the project team requires access to the northern and southern foreshores of the Clyde River during construction at various times.

Construction in these areas will include a temporary jetty that will be used to move equipment to and from the river and the use of large equipment including cranes up to 450 tonnes. These cranes will operate within or in very close proximity to the existing boat ramps at Old Punt Road and Clyde Street. For the safety of workers, the public and river users, one of the existing boat ramps will be open at all times, while the other will be temporarily closed while major work is underway.

As Transport is committed to maintaining access to the river for Clyde River users we will alternate access between the Old Punt Road boat ramp and Clyde Street boat ramp during construction to allow for the efficient delivery of major work.

Following the impact of a severe storm event in mid-2019 it was decided that a temporary boat ramp at Korners Park to the east of the existing bridge would not be constructed as part of the project. This location will be used to assist with construction of the new bridge until the area is upgraded and re-opened to the community.

With the aid of a second barge during earlier stages of construction, we were able to deliver more work from the Clyde River allowing for boat ramp access plans to be updated to provide alternate access from either the Clyde Street or Old Punt Road boat ramp locations.
Old Punt Road boat ramp configuration when open to the public. When will our access to the existing facilities change, and how many boat trailer carparks will there be at any given time?

To ensure the safety of the public while the new bridge is being built, boat ramp access to the Clyde River from the northern and southern foreshore will be maintained at alternate times during construction.

In consultation with boating and fishing groups, we have updated plans to ensure that access to the river and boat parking is still provided for river users.

Both Old Punt Road boat ramp and Clyde Street boat ramp will each provide up to eight boat trailer parking spaces, and a boat trailer turn-around area.

The community will be kept informed and signage will be in place at locations to advise which boat ramp is open. Boat users can also subscribe for specific updates regarding boat ramp access via email and text message by contacting the project team at BatemansBayBridge@jhg.com.au or 1800 870 119.

Why is the temporary boat ramp facility at Korners Park not going ahead?

A temporary boat ramp at Korners Park, partially constructed as part of the Batemans Bay Bridge project, was damaged during a storm event in June 2019. This temporary boat ramp was originally planned to maintain access to the Clyde River within Batemans Bay for boat users during construction.

In response, plans to maintain boat ramp access during project construction were updated and the decision was made not to complete the temporary boat ramp at Korners Park and access to the Clyde River will remain via either the Old Punt Road or Clyde Street boat ramps.

The area at Korners Park will be used to assist with construction activities for the new bridge.
**What are the impacts of boat users using Hanging Rock instead of Clyde Street boat ramp?**

Access at the well-equipped Hanging Rock Boat Ramp, Batemans Bay will be maintained. This alternate facility is located about 4km or a seven minute drive from the Clyde Street and Princes Highway intersection.

The much larger Hanging Rock Boat Ramp includes several fish cleaning tables, a large two-lane ramp, toilet and showering facilities, up to 100 boat trailer parking bays and is home to Batemans Bay Marine Rescue.

The boat ramp can be used by large and small vessels. Once on the water, small and large vessels will be able to access the sections of the river that were accessible when using the Clyde Street boat ramp.

After completion of the new bridge, the existing boat ramps and boat parking at Old Punt Road and Clyde Street will be re-opened. The northern foreshore will be upgraded based on the final foreshore design. The Foreshore Advisory Committee was established to guide community input into some features of the foreshore design including parking, recreational areas, access to the river, landscaping and art work. Hanging Rock boat ramp will continue to operate following construction. We will keep the community informed of specific dates of when this change will occur when they become available.

**How will construction of the new bridge impact water vessels that rely on the opening of the lift span bridge?**

The project will not stop upstream access for water vessels currently relying on the lift span bridge.

The width of the navigation channel will be reduced and appropriate safety signage and navigation buoys will be in place for river users and workers during construction.

There may be short periods of time during specific construction activities where the navigation channel may be temporarily relocated, for example during major crane lifts.

Please follow the direction of the project team or Maritime who will safely guide river users through the new temporary channel.

**Do these required changes impact any commercial operations or services?**

The community will be provided notice when the project intends to temporarily change the navigation channel for short periods of time for example during major crane lifts.

**With a temporarily reduced number of boat trailer parking spaces, what are alternative locations for boats wanting to launch onto the Clyde River?**

Owners of vessels intending to go to open water or downstream of the bridge are encouraged to launch from the much larger Hanging Rock boat ramp facility off Hanging Rock Place, Batemans Bay (travel along Beach Road towards Batehaven). Please check the safety equipment requirements.

There are also a number of boat ramps and trailer parking areas available in nearby Nelligen (around 15 minutes’ drive along the Kings Highway) upstream of Batemans Bay.
**Will there be any opportunities for the existing boat ramp facilities to be re-opened for special public events during this time?**

Boat ramp access will alternate between the Clyde Street and Old Punt Road boat ramps during project construction.

During closure of the Old Punt Road boat ramp on the northern foreshore, there may be opportunity for the ramp to be temporarily re-opened for special public events. This boat ramp will be fenced off with access gates. The gates may be opened by special arrangement by contacting the project team.

**What is happening to the T-wharf on Clyde Street? Will it include a pontoon?**

As part of the Batemans Bay Bridge replacement project, Transport plans to build a new floating pontoon on the southern foreshore. The existing fixed T-wharf will remain in place.

The new floating pontoon is not part of the temporary boat ramp strategy and will be communicated to the public separately.

**What boat ramp amenities will be available for public use at the existing boat ramps during this staged boat ramp activity and during construction?**

Existing barbecue and shelter facilities at the Clyde Street boat ramp will be accessible when it is open.

A fish cleaning table and access to tap water will be available when the Old Punt Road boat ramp is open.

These facilities will not be accessible when each boat ramp is closed.

**What is the long-term vision for the northern and southern foreshores? Will the number of boat trailer bays be increased on the southern foreshore when the boat ramp is re-opened?**

The Foreshore Advisory Committee was established in October 2018 to provide recommendations on the foreshore design. The committee includes representatives from Eurobodalla Shire Council, boating and fishing groups, local Aboriginal groups, the wider community and local business operators.

The committee met regularly and provided advice on proposed parking facilities, recreational areas, access to the river, landscaping and artwork.

The design of the foreshore, including parking arrangements, was displayed to the public in June 2019. A report detailing community feedback provided during the display period will be made available in late-2020.

**Is there any proposal to increase the number of boat ramp lanes and provide a wharf or pontoon at the existing boat ramps when they re-open?**

No, the existing boat ramps will not be removed, nor upgraded on either the northern or southern foreshores as a result of construction of the new bridge. Temporary closures of the existing ramps will alternate depending on activities during the course of the project.
Is there any plan to widen the access road to the existing northern foreshore boat ramp?
As part of the final new bridge design, Old Punt Road is being widened and will connect with Wharf Road under the new Batemans Bay Bridge.

Is there any plan to upgrade the existing northern foreshore boat ramp?
The existing northern foreshore boat ramp will not be upgraded as part of the bridge project.