

New Dubbo Bridge

Submissions Report and Building a better Dubbo 2019 Consultation Report release

About the project

The NSW Government announced \$140 million to fund the construction of a new bridge over the Macquarie River in Dubbo, as part of its \$195 million commitment to Building a better Dubbo.

The River Street Bridge provides another river crossing and will maintain reliability for commuter and heavy freight traffic through Dubbo during flood events.

How did we get to this point?

In 2016 six strategic corridor options for a new bridge location were placed on public display. Following consultation with stakeholders and community members these six options were shortlisted to three.

After considering traffic impacts, environmental issues and community feedback, the River Street option was announced as the preferred option for the New Dubbo Bridge project in June 2017.

A concept design for the River Street Bridge was developed and a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) has been carried out. The concept design and REF went on public display from Monday 27 May 2019 to Friday 28 June 2019.

During this period, submissions were invited on the concept design and REF. Transport for NSW received a total of 310 submissions about a range of issues.

What is happening now?

The New Dubbo Bridge Submissions Report is now available to view [here](#).

It provides a summary of the suggestions, issues and concerns raised in submissions to the New Dubbo Bridge project and Transport for NSW's responses to these.

The Building a better Dubbo 2019 Consultation Report is also now available [here](#).

It contains a summary of consultation with the community and key stakeholders about the Building a better Dubbo projects, including the New Dubbo Bridge project, during the display period from 27 May 2019 to 28 June 2019.

Has Transport for NSW consulted with the community about the New Dubbo Bridge previously?

Transport for NSW has engaged with key stakeholders and the broader community throughout the development of the New Dubbo Bridge. An extensive community consultation program was carried out between April and May 2016.

In June 2017 the Preferred Option was announced and the Preferred Option Report was released outlining the design considerations and engagement activities undertaken to determine River Street as the preferred option. During this time property owners that were identified as potentially affected by the project were consulted directly.

The 2016/2017 New Dubbo Bridge Consultation Report summarises this consultation period and is available to view [here](#).

What are the next steps in developing the project?

Feedback on the REF and concept design has been considered during the determination of the REF and finalisation of the Submissions Report.

The determination of the REF is the confirmation that the project meets all the environmental requirements associated with the project. The determination allows Transport for NSW to continue planning for the River Street Bridge project, including starting the detailed design.

When would construction of the New Dubbo Bridge start?

Once the detailed design is finalised, we are planning to start construction in 2022.

What are the key features of the project?

The key features of the New Dubbo Bridge include:

- A 545 metre bridge connecting the western shore of the Macquarie River to River Street, travelling west of the river
- Connection of the western bank of the Macquarie River to River Street
- New and upgraded intersections at Thompson Street, Whylandra Street, and the Newell Highway
- Realignment of the Newell Highway with new separated lanes north of Whylandra Street
- Upgrade of the intersection at Bourke Street and River Street.

What are the project benefits?

The New Dubbo Bridge will:

- Provide another river crossing and improve traffic flow during a flood
- Improve traffic flow in Dubbo and reduce average traffic delays
- Improve local freight and heavy vehicle traffic access across the river
- Provide access and plan for future growth in north-west Dubbo
- Provide a new four-way intersection at Thompson Street, Whylandra Street and the Newell Highway
- Improve the efficiency of the Newell Highway for traffic travelling through Dubbo.

How has feedback been used to develop the project?

Some changes to the New Dubbo Bridge concept design have been confirmed following the REF and concept display period. These include changes to:

- Speed limits
- Flood detour routes
- Footpath alignments for better connectivity to existing pedestrian facilities
- The location of one site compound
- The overall bridge width.

For more information on these changes, see the New Dubbo Bridge Submissions Report which can be found [here](#).

As well as design changes, the Submissions Report details further environmental investigations carried out since the finalisation of the REF as a result of changes to the proposal and identifies new or revised environmental management measures for the project.

What are people saying about the project?

Issues raised through the submissions to the New Dubbo Bridge project included:

- Requests to change the planned location of the new bridge from River Street to Troy Bridge Road
- Impact on Aboriginal heritage at Wiradjuri Park
- That the project design does not adequately address the issue of trucks travelling through Dubbo CBD
- That the project design does not adequately address Dubbo's flood issues.

For more information about issues raised by the community and stakeholders, including Transport for NSW's response, view the New Dubbo Bridge Submissions Report.

Is there funding for the project?

Yes. The NSW Government announced \$140 million to fund the construction of a new bridge over the Macquarie River in Dubbo.

What flood immunity will the project provide?

An objective of the New Dubbo Bridge proposal is to achieve a flood immunity within the range of one in 20 to one in 50 year flood event. This refers to the whole proposal, including the new roads and intersection on either side of the bridge and the bridge itself.

The Whylandra Street / Thompson Street intersection and River Street / Brisbane Street intersection have been designed to a one in 20 year flood event and the New Dubbo Bridge has been designed to a one in 50 year flood event.

The flood detour that would use the New Dubbo Bridge has a one in 50 year flood immunity. The deck of the New Dubbo Bridge would be 0.5 metres higher than a one in 100 year flood.

Why don't you build a ring road or bypass instead of the River Street option?

The River Street option and a ring road/bypass are two separate projects and the River Street option should not be considered as an alternative for a ring road/bypass. This option will relieve local congestion when needed most, during a flood.

Traffic modelling shows that up to 90 per cent of vehicles (and 77 per cent of heavy vehicles) are traveling to Dubbo for work, shopping or recreation purposes. An outer bypass option would only cater for 10 per cent of vehicles whilst local flooding and east-west congestion would remain an issue.

Review of Environmental Factors (REF)

What is an REF?

An REF is an environmental assessment that is required as part of the assessment of activities needing approval under NSW legislation. The assessment examines the significance of likely environmental impacts of a proposal and the measures required to ease any adverse impacts to the environment.

An REF is publicly available, providing information on a proposal, including its environmental impacts and mitigation measures. It is used by Transport for NSW to inform determination of the proposal.

The REF plays a critical role in the process of identifying, predicting, assessing, evaluating and mitigating the environmental, social, economic and other relevant effects of development proposals. The REF for the New Dubbo Bridge assesses the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the proposal through detailed technical investigations.

What is the status of the New Dubbo Bridge REF?

Feedback on the REF and concept design was assessed against the outcomes of earlier community engagement carried out for the proposal, as well as technical studies. This information and analysis was considered during the determination of the REF and finalisation of the New Dubbo Bridge Submissions Report.

The determination of the REF is the confirmation that the project meets all the environmental requirements associated with the project. The determination allows Transport for NSW to continue planning for the River Street Bridge project, including starting the detailed design.

Have you consulted with the Aboriginal community?

Yes. During the development of the project the Aboriginal community was invited to be a part of the Aboriginal Focus Group for the project. This group has also contributed to the REF investigations and recommendations.

Meetings have been held with the local Aboriginal community, including onsite at Wiradjuri Park where the project and any impacts or changes have been discussed.

Transport for NSW considers the Aboriginal community a key stakeholder group and will continue to consult with them as the project progresses.

Information for the community

I made a submission, how can I see Transport for NSW's response?

Submissions have been individually analysed and given a number in the Submissions Report. Transport for NSW will be contacting individuals and organisations who made submissions to the project with information on how to find their submission in the New Dubbo Bridge Submissions Report, as well as Transport for NSW's response. The responses are grouped according to the issues raised.

The names of individuals who made submissions have not been published and will remain confidential.

How will the community be informed about the development of the project?

Transport for NSW will continue to work with the community and stakeholders during the planning and delivery of the New Dubbo Bridge to understand issues and minimise potential impacts.

All community and stakeholder feedback on the project is welcome.

We are liaising directly with any property owners potentially affected by the New Dubbo Bridge proposal, as well as engaging with the broader community and other stakeholders.

Visit nswroads.work/dubbo to sign up for updates and to find out more about what is happening in Dubbo.

I live near the River Street site, how will this affect me?

Transport for NSW has identified properties impacted and potentially impacted by the project. We have and will continue to consult directly with all owners. We will contact you directly if we need to enter your property to carry out field investigations to help gather information needed in the development of the projects.

You will be contacted by Transport for NSW if access to your property is required. A fact sheet answering some commonly asked questions about property access can be provided by the project team.

How can I contact the project team?

If you have any questions or would like more information on Dubbo road projects please contact our project team:



1800 803 818 (toll free)



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PO Box 36 Dubbo NSW 2830



nswroads.work/dubbo



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 803 818 .