

Frequently asked questions

Lawrence Hargrave Drive closure, Stanwell Park

The NSW Government is funding this \$4.5 million safety project to carry out slope stabilisation work.

When and where is this work happening?

Major slope repair work will be carried out on Lawrence Hargrave Drive at Stanwell Park over an **eight-week period** from **9am Monday 15 June to 7pm Sunday 9 August 2020**.

Transport for NSW has adjusted work dates for this project to accommodate urgent rail maintenance on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June. This will help to minimise impacts to community members making essential journeys while ensuring the safety of all transport users. Transport for NSW apologises for any inconvenience to the community.

Work will be carried out between Chellow Dene Avenue and Lady Wakehurst Drive/ Otford Road.

The **road will be closed 24/7** and detours will be in place until work is complete. Crews will work in day and night shifts to complete the project as quickly as possible.

Why are we doing this work?

Lawrence Hargrave Drive crosses the Illawarra escarpment where slope movement frequently occurs.

We have identified a number of locations between Chellow Dene Avenue and Lady Wakehurst Drive where we need to carry out work to stabilise the slope and reduce the risk of land slips. This work is essential to keep the road safe and open to traffic in the long term.

What work will be carried out?

We will carry out major repairs to reinforce and strengthen the slope, which includes installing mesh and soil nails (steel bars up to 13 metres long) for about one kilometre along the road and building a concrete retaining wall.

We will also carry out essential maintenance activities including road resurfacing, replacing guardrails, revegetation of work sites and improving drainage.

Why is it necessary to close the road during the work?

Closing the road is essential to ensure the safety of road users and crews while we carry out this work.

The road at this location is steep and narrow, and our work involves using large machinery and drilling equipment which doesn't leave room for vehicles, pedestrians or cyclists to pass safely.

During some stages of work part of the southbound lane will be excavated and there will be reduced support for the northbound lane.

Why can't we complete the work with one lane open?

Due to the narrow road width, the steepness of the slope and size of the machinery, it will not be possible to allow traffic past the work site, while still providing a safe work area.

What will be the impact of the detour?

Detours will be in place via Bulli Pass (Princes Highway) and the M1 Princes Motorway.

Motorists should plan their journey and allow up to 45 minutes extra travel time.

Electronic message boards will display information to motorists about the closure including dates and detour routes.

Heavy vehicles over 19 metres or 42.5 tonnes should use the M1 as normal.

Detour maps are available on our project webpage at rms.work/lhd-closure.

What additional train and bus services will be provided in Stanwell Park during this work?

Transport for NSW is providing additional transport during this work to help the community access work, school and other activities.

Trains

On weekday mornings two existing services travelling to Central will temporarily stop at Stanwell Park, and on weekday afternoons one existing service from Central will temporarily stop at Stanwell Park.

This is in addition to the timetabled services currently stopping at Stanwell Park and Helensburgh. Stanwell Park weekday train services will increase to 23 northbound timetabled services and 27 southbound services during slope stabilisation work.

On weekends express services will make temporary stops at Stanwell Park to provide an hourly train service during the road closures.

Train timetable information is available via transportnsw.info.

Buses

We thank the community for providing their feedback to our survey about shuttle bus services earlier this year. This information has been considered in our planning for additional transport services during this work.

Stanwell Park

We will operate two large buses to transport residents to and from train services at Stanwell Park station.

Shuttle bus hours of operation:

- Weekdays between 6am and 9pm
- Saturdays between 7.30am and 6.30pm
- Sundays between 8.30am and 5pm.

For more information including a map of the bus route, bus stops, service frequency and nearby parking please see our project webpage.

We will monitor and review bus services throughout the project as required.

Route 15 bus - Helensburgh

Community members can use existing Route 15 bus services to travel between Helensburgh train station and the Helensburgh area. Bus timetable information is available via transportnsw.info.

School services

There will be school services available to transport primary school aged who attend schools on the opposite side of the closure.

Schools included in these services are:

- Holy Cross Catholic Primary School
- Shire Christian School
- Stanwell Park Public School

These services will travel via the detour route. For detailed information please see the School bus services fact sheet on our project webpage at rms.work/lhd-closure or check timetables via transportnsw.info.

Has COVID-19 and social distancing been considered as part of your plans?

The slope stability work is complex and requires significant early planning and approvals to allow the work to be carried out effectively and efficiently.

Transport for NSW investigated options to bring forward the work, unfortunately this was not possible due to the availability of contractors and suppliers.

Transport for NSW is following advice from NSW Health in light of COVID-19 and will implement this advice into the planning and delivering this project, which includes making additional transport provision available.

We will continue to keep the community updated in relation to any changes that may occur to planned work as a result of COVID-19.

What consultation has been carried out?

Transport for NSW consulted the community in July/ August and November/ December 2019 on options to carry out this slope repair work.

Based on feedback, one eight-week road closure during winter months was selected as the preferred option for carrying out this work.

Option B provides a safe environment for workers and allows work to be completed as quickly as possible by avoiding closing and reopening the road daily.

Key issues raised which have been considered during planning include:

- extended detour travel time
- avoiding summer and peak tourism period
- impacts on local businesses due to loss of passing trade
- requests to keep one lane open during work
- access for emergency services
- requests for additional transport services to minimise impacts of detours and increased traffic volumes on motorists and the local community.

What are the benefits of carrying out this work during one eight-week closure period?

Benefits of this option include:

- most noisy activities will be completed during daylight hours where possible or before 11pm
- more efficient and safer way to carry out this work
- dates for road closures and reopening the road are confirmed
- potentially less impact to businesses
- less confusing for motorists and tourists than two closures or frequent road closures and openings.

What plans have been prepared for the detour routes?

Transport for NSW will work to ensure traffic congestion is minimised during the planned road closure and detours. We have identified key locations on the road network where we will monitor queues and have traffic control in place to intervene as required.

This includes the intersection of Princes Highway and Lawrence Hargrave Drive at Bulli Pass, where we will implement measures during peak hours to assist motorists including:

- installing temporary traffic signals at the top of the lower descent to Bulli Pass to create safe gaps for turning traffic
- traffic controllers onsite to monitor traffic, safety and reduce delays, including assisting motorists to turn right at the intersection.

In the event of incidents on the traffic network, additional resources including tow trucks will be on standby to respond and ensure delays to motorists are minimised.

We will work with our heavy vehicle enforcement teams and NSW Police to implement regular safety-related activities on the M1.

What will be done to reduce the noise impact of this work?

There will be noise during construction, however to reduce the impact on residents, noisier work such as excavation, drilling and tree removal will be completed during daylight hours where possible or before 11pm.

We will turn machinery off when not in use and direct lighting away from properties where possible.

We will work closely with nearby residents impacted by noise and minimise impacts where possible.

What happens if there is an emergency in the area – will responders have access?

We have consulted with emergency services and will continue to work with them to mitigate the impacts.

Emergency services will ensure current service levels are maintained during this work.

Emergency services can use a range of measures which may include:

- on-call rosters for staff living in and around Stanwell Park/ Helensburgh area
- placing additional emergency service vehicles and staff resources at key locations on either side of the road closure.

If required during an ongoing emergency such as bushfires or flooding, emergency services will be able to travel through the work site.

How do I access health services during the closures?

Individuals are able to contact their healthcare and service providers to make alternate arrangements to their treatment during the closure period.

If community members require urgent medical attention they should call 000 to speak to Emergency services.

Who has been involved as part of the process?

We are speaking with local residents and businesses, Wollongong City Council, Destination Wollongong, NSW emergency services, Transport for NSW - Trains, freight industry, health/ aged care services and schools about this closure.

What arrangements will be made for cyclists?

No traffic, including cyclists, will be able to access the area during work hours. Cyclists can use the Princes Highway via Bulli Pass, or use train services between Stanwell Park, Otford and Helensburgh. We will have electronic message boards in place to direct cyclists during this work.

Can pedestrians access the area?

There is no pedestrian access on this section of Lawrence Hargrave Drive at any time.

How can I find further information about this project?

Visit our website for more information about the project: rms.work/lhd-closure.