Newell Highway Upgrade
Mungle Back Creek to Boggabilla

Project update | December 2019

The Australian and New South Wales Governments are funding the $122 million Newell Highway Upgrade Mungle Back Creek to Boggabilla project in northern New South Wales.

The Newell Highway Upgrade Mungle Back Creek to Boggabilla project has one of the most diverse teams of people on any Roads and Maritime Services project.

Over 30% of the team are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and we have project staff from all over the world working on the project. We asked some of the team, “What are the benefits of having a diverse team at MBC2B?”

Paul Jessop, Project Quality Manager – It provides an opportunity to experience an appreciation in professional work relations amongst work colleagues with different cultural backgrounds, gender, age and professional experience who all share a common project goal in mind.

Michael Pac, Engineer – The benefit of having a diverse team is that your get to learn about different cultures and backgrounds which helps the team as it creates a range of perspective which generates high quality solutions to problems at hand.

Renita Androse, Graduate Engineer – A diverse team ensures that we have different perspectives in all situations and unique input from each member of the team.

Tim Dyball, Project Engineer – The best part about having a diverse team is having different set of eyes bringing a different perspective to the job.

Jessica McDonnell, Graduate Engineer – Because we have a diverse team, I feel there is more social and cultural sensitivity and understanding and respect within the team. The diversity in music and food that people bring from their backgrounds always makes for a great time in the office.

The Team, left to right: Paul Jessop, Michael Pac, Renita Androse, Tim Dyball and Jessica McDonnell
The project includes major work on 18 kilometres of new road pavement, 3.5 metre wide lanes in each direction, intersection improvements, widening of road shoulders and construction of two new overtaking lanes to improve road safety and travel times on one of Australia’s busiest freight arterials.

**Work underway and completed**

Work started in November 2018 and we are now 12 months into construction with work continuing to progress quickly.

The upgrade has been divided into stages, which allows the work to be carried out progressively to ensure the project is completed on time and to minimise disruption to motorists.

Work being carried out includes ground treatments, building up pavement layers and constructing drains. This work is important given this area is a black soil flood zone, which can be inundated during heavy rain. Temporary work has been completed in several sections of the upgrade and traffic switched off the old highway onto the new temporary pavement.

Permanent works stabilisation has been completed in sections south of Whalan Creek Bridge and the foamed bitumen team has completed both layers of road pavement for the southern 8 kilometres of work. So far over 1510 lineal metres of pipes have been laid, 1473 lineal metres of box culverts constructed, 170 tonne of steel incorporated and 950 cubic metres of concrete placed.

**Did you know?**

On average, 19 wide loads travel through the project every day. Wide loads are usually only allowed to travel during daylight hours meaning there is one wide load about every 30 minutes.

The average travel time through the project for wide loads is 33 minutes and the largest wide load we recorded to date was over 9 metres wide.
Community Engagement

The Mungle Back Creek to Boggabilla project team has consulted with directly impacted stakeholders including local farmers, businesses, Chamber of Commerce, indigenous groups, local government and the wider community, as the project has progressed.

Up to 115 staff and contractors, including many locals, are now employed on the project which has led to opportunities for training and employment for the region, including Indigenous people, and supplier opportunities for the wider community.

The project team has worked with Boggabilla Central School to provide school based traineeships and employment for two Year 11 Aboriginal students.

This is the first initiative of its type within Fulton Hogan and believed to be the first of its kind across all Roads and Maritime Services projects.

The project team has provided sponsorship for local community groups, including June NAIDOC Day celebrations at Boggabilla Central School and Toomelah Public School, North Star Show Jumping Event and Goondiwindi Kindergarten.

A Cultural Heritage Advisor has joined the project team and there has been regular engagement with with Local Land Services, including site visits by the Travelling Stock Reserve Ranger and representatives of Moree Plains Shire Council and Goondiwindi Regional Council.
Did you know?

The Newell Highway Upgrade Mungle Back Creek to Boggabilla uses a Foamed Bitumen Stabilised Base (FBSB) to construct the new road pavement, a new material for highway construction in New South Wales.

The benefit of FBSB over conventional materials is that it is strong, flexible, and can be repaired easily, making it suitable to the black soil conditions in North West New South Wales.

To date the project has used 180,000 tonnes of FBSB to construct approximately 10 kilometres of new pavement.

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Newell Highway Upgrade Mungle Back Creek to Boggabilla project please contact the project team on:

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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 167 499.