The first walkers crossing the bridge at the community day on 8 December
Bridge opening
The new Grafton bridge opened to traffic on Thursday 12 December.

A smoking ceremony and ribbon-cutting event was held on the bridge prior to the first cars crossing the bridge. The bridge was officially opened by the Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis, with the official ceremony attended by representatives from Clarence Valley Council, the Clarence Historical Society, the Grafton Chamber of Commerce and representatives of the Bundjalung and Gumbaynggirr nations.

Community event
Thousands of people took up an invitation to walk across the new bridge before it opened to traffic. The event, held on Sunday 8 December, opened with the Grafton District Services Club pipe band leading walkers across the bridge from Grafton to South Grafton and was a very active morning including a smoking ceremony, flyover by the Grafton Aero Club, tree-planting ceremony, vintage car display and an official ceremony to celebrate completion of the crossing.

Upcoming activities
Key construction activities planned for the next four months include:
- Completing the roundabout at the intersection of the Pacific and Gwydir highways in South Grafton
- Building the central concrete median on Iolanthe Street, including the installation of pedestrian fencing
- Installing the signalised pedestrian crossing on the Gwydir Highway (Charles Street)
- Completing landscaping
- Placing the final road surface on Iolanthe and Spring streets.

Reopening of Greaves Street
Greaves Street was reopened to through traffic on 18 February. Part of Greaves Street was temporarily closed to through traffic in February 2017 to allow for relocation of utilities and earthwork.

The closed section of Greaves Street was lowered to provide suitable clearance under the new bridge.

Roundabout at the intersection of the Pacific and Gwydir highways
Construction of the roundabout is progressing well, following another traffic switch in late February.

The roundabout is being built in stages and is expected to open to traffic around mid-year, shortly after Pacific Highway traffic is diverted onto the upgraded bypass of Grafton. Building the roundabout is a significant challenge due to the high volumes of traffic at this location, a constrained project boundary and adverse ground conditions.

The traffic switch moved the intersection slightly closer to the former visitor information centre to allow construction of the roundabout to continue near the vacant service station. The intersection will continue to operate as a T-intersection until the new roundabout pavement work is complete.
The latest stage also improves the temporary connection to the existing highway by providing a left-out from Iolanthe Street to the Pacific Highway. The northbound left-in from the Pacific Highway to Iolanthe Street remains in place.

Work will begin on building part of the central concrete median and installing the pedestrian fence on Iolanthe Street in March. The work is expected to be completed by mid-April. The central median will be built from the Through Street roundabout to just past the BP service station driveway in Iolanthe Street. The central median will be extended to the roundabout at the intersection of the Pacific and Gwydir highways following diversion of Pacific Highway traffic and completion of the roundabout.

Once work on the median starts right turns for vehicles entering and exiting businesses in Iolanthe Street will no longer be permitted, which is consistent with the final traffic arrangement.

While we finish building the roundabout, some motorists may need to use the original bridge depending on which business they need to access in Iolanthe Street.

**Interim changes at intersection of Pacific and Gwydir highways - South Grafton**

![Interim changes at intersection of Pacific and Gwydir highways - South Grafton](image)

**Work outside of normal construction hours**

To complete the roundabout at the intersection of the Pacific and Gwydir highways, the project team is working outside of normal construction hours on some occasions. Working outside of normal construction hours during the coming months will reduce potential impacts on motorists on the Gwydir and Pacific highways and nearby businesses. The work will not be every Saturday afternoon or every week night and we are notifying affected residents in advance of any work outside of normal construction hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approved work hours</th>
<th>Extended work hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm</td>
<td>Monday to Friday 6pm to 7am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturdays 8am to 1pm</td>
<td>Saturdays 1pm to 6pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From early March until the new roundabout opens later this year, vehicles coming from North Grafton wishing to access businesses on the west side of Iolanthe Street can use the Old Grafton Bridge and proceed down Bent Street, turn left into either Through or Spring streets and then left at Iolanthe.
New pedestrian and cycle link to the existing bridge’s pedestrian and cycle path

Pound Street widened to accommodate two lanes of traffic in both directions

New steel truss bridge

Detention basin

Existing bridge

Greaves Street lowered to provide suitable clearance beneath the new bridge

Sugar loading facility

Iolanthe Street widened to four lanes

New signalised pedestrian crossing

‘T’ intersection for Butters Lane

Future pedestrian/cycle connection to Clarenza (proposed by others)

New pedestrian and cycle path on existing right of way

Pedestrian and cycle path on existing network from Bent Street and Crisp Avenue

Diversion of existing Pacific Highway

Section of road to be closed

New roundabout

Centre of roundabout modified to improve heavy vehicle accessibility

Round Street widened to accommodate two lanes of traffic in both directions

New roundabout

New roundabout

New signalised pedestrian crossing

Bridge approach road

Bridge approach road

Pedestrian and cycle path on existing four lanes

New traffic lights

Defensive bollard

New roundabout

New roundabout

T-intersection for Butters Lane

North Coast railway

North Coast railway

300 200 100 0
Kilometres

LEGEND

Road design

Shared user path

Noise wall

Rail

Project map and key features and improvements (when project is completed in mid-2020)

View from the west

Bridge opening

Aerial view of community members walking across the bridge on 8 December

Grafton Chamber of Commerce

Clarence Historical Society

Bundjalung and Gumbaynggir nations

Community event

Thousands of people took up an invitation to walk across the new bridge before it opened to traffic.

The event, held on Sunday 8 December, opened with the Grafton District Services Club pipe band leading walkers across the bridge from Grafton to South Grafton and was a very active morning including a smoking ceremony, flyover by the Grafton Aero Club, tree-planting ceremony, vintage car display and an official ceremony to celebrate completion of the crossing.

Upcoming activities

Key construction activities planned for the next four months include:

• Completing the roundabout at the intersection of the Pacific and Gwydir highways in South Grafton

• Building the central concrete median on Iolanthe Street, including the installation of pedestrian fencing

• Installing the signalised pedestrian crossing on the Gwydir Highway (Charles Street)

• Completing landscaping

• Placing the final road surface on Iolanthe and Spring streets.

Greaves Street reopened to through traffic on 18 February.

Greaves Street was reopened to through traffic on 18 February. Part of Greaves Street was temporarily closed to through traffic in February 2017 to allow for relocation of utilities and earthwork. The closed section of Greaves Street was lowered to provide suitable clearance under the new bridge.

Roundabout at the intersection of the Pacific and Gwydir highways

Construction of the roundabout is progressing well, following another traffic switch in late February. The roundabout is being built in stages and is expected to open to traffic around mid-year, shortly after Pacific Highway traffic is diverted onto the upgraded bypass of Grafton. Building the roundabout is a significant challenge due to the high volumes of traffic at this location, a constrained project boundary and adverse ground conditions.

The traffic switch moved the intersection slightly closer to the former visitor information centre to allow construction of the roundabout to continue near the vacant service station. The intersection will continue to operate as a T-intersection until the new roundabout is complete.
Roundabout changes
Line-marking changes have been implemented at the Pound and Villiers street roundabout in Grafton. Under the previous traffic arrangement, motorists travelling in the right lane from the new bridge towards Villiers Street were required to turn right. Under the changes, traffic using the right lane now have the option of either travelling straight through the roundabout to continue along Pound Street or turning right. Further, the left lane has been modified to a left only turn into Villiers Street.

Line-marking changes have also been implemented at the Charles and Bent streets roundabout in South Grafton. Westbound motorists in Charles Street are no longer permitted to turn right from the left lane at the Bent Street roundabout.