

Frequently Asked Questions

Windang Bridge rehabilitation work on Lake Illawarra

The NSW Government is funding this \$2.5 million rehabilitation project to carry out pier scour prevention work on Windang Bridge at Lake Illawarra.

Why are we doing this work?

Windang Bridge crosses Lake Illawarra that carries two lanes of traffic in each direction and is a major bridge connecting Shellharbour and Wollongong Councils.

Changes have been observed to the lake bed profile since the opening of the lake to the ocean in 2007. We have conducted in-depth monitoring and observed an increased amount of scour (erosion) at the northern end of the bridge.

We will carry out remediation work to prevent further scour on the bridge piles.

This work is essential to keep the bridge and road safe and open to traffic in the long term.

What work has been carried out and why are there barges in the water?

Work has been carried out from barges located at the north end of Windang Bridge.

An excavator is used to place the rocks from the barge around the bridge piles to help prevent further scour.

The barges are used to transport the rocks to the bridge rehabilitation site.

We will continue carrying out the work this way to minimise the impact to motorists and the community.

Will the work be finished by the end of 2019?

Stage 1 of the will continue up until Thursday 19 December at which point the project will be packed up and the area returned to the community.

A decision will be made in early 2020 as to whether further rehabilitation work is required following continued bridge monitoring over the coming months.

Will you be working over the Christmas holiday period?

No. All work material including barges, machinery, stockpiles and site offices will be removed so the foreshore area and waterways can be returned to the community to enjoy during the holiday period.

Is the bridge safe for use?

Yes. The bridge is perfectly safe for use by all vehicle types as well as pedestrian and cycle use.

We remind the public that jumping into the water from Windang Bridge is prohibited. Temporary fencing will remain in place above the locations where rocks have been placed for safety.

Fishing from Windang Bridge is also prohibited to ensure the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, bridge traffic and waterway users passing under the bridge.

The community is advised of changed conditions and should avoid fishing around the work site.

Will the rocks be visible in the water?

The rock placement will be visible when the water is clear and at the lowest tidal level.

The rock placement will not affect boat activities and will have at least 3.8 metres depth in the navigation channel at the lowest tidal level.

What monitoring and investigation work is being done?

Additional monitoring equipment, survey prisms and strain gauges have been installed onto the underside of Windang Bridge to collect important bridge and load data. This monitoring will be carried out 24/7 to assure the bridge remains safe and open to traffic.

We will continue to carry out regular inspections to monitor the bridge.

What are the future plans for Windang Bridge?

We are in the process of consulting key stakeholders on the formation of a working group to collaborate on longer term planning and investment for Windang Bridge and other assets along the foreshore.

The intention is to convene the working group following completion of the rehabilitation work to Windang Bridge.

Who has been involved as part of the process?

We are speaking with local residents, Wollongong City Council, Shellharbour City Council, Maritime, Fisheries, Crown Lands, Office of Environment and Heritage and representatives from the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council.

How can I find further information about this project?

Visit our website for more information about the project and the rehabilitation work:
rms.work/windang-bridge.