Windsor Bridge replacement
March 2016

The NSW Government is building this important project to help improve traffic flow and provide a safe and reliable crossing of the Hawkesbury River at Windsor.

Roads and Maritime Services is planning to replace the existing Windsor Bridge with a new bridge 35 metres downstream. New approach roads and intersections will be built and existing approach roads will be filled in and landscaped. The existing bridge will be removed once the new bridge is open to traffic.

The Department of Planning and Environment has granted approval for Roads and Maritime to deliver the project. In the coming months we will carry out work to inform the detailed design for the project and meet our conditions of approval. This will include archaeological investigations, archival recording of historic sites and environmental monitoring activities.

Construction work to build the replacement bridge is expected to start in 2017 and take about two years to complete, weather permitting.

Benefits

Key benefits of the project include:

- Improved safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists from a new, reliable bridge
- Improved traffic flow from a bridge that allows two-way heavy vehicle traffic and shoulders for vehicle breakdowns
- Upgrading an essential local and regional road link across the Hawkesbury River at Windsor
- Improved traffic efficiency by installing traffic lights at the intersection of Bridge and George Streets and a new dual-lane roundabout at Freemans Reach Road and Wilberforce Road
- A new bridge that can cope with higher levels of flooding and will have the same flood immunity as surrounding approach roads on the northern riverbank
- Better access for pedestrians and cyclists from a three metre wide shared pedestrian and cycle path that provides safe, efficient connections to Thompson Square and surrounds
- Reduced road footprint within the Thompson Square heritage precinct
- A unified open space in Thompson Square increasing the usable area in the square by more than 500 square metres with direct access to the river.
Urban design and landscaping

In mid-2016, Roads and Maritime will invite feedback from the community and stakeholders on proposed urban design and landscaping for the project.

By locating the new bridge 35 metres downstream of the existing bridge and connecting it to Old Bridge Street along the side of the square there is an opportunity to unify the green space in Thompson Square. This would reduce the number of roads in Thompson Square from three to two, increase the usable area in the square by more than 500 square metres and improve the connection of the square to the foreshore.

Roads and Maritime is currently finalising the proposed urban design and landscaping plan and will provide more information later this year, including how you can provide feedback.

Background

Originally built for horse-drawn vehicles and foot traffic in 1874, Windsor Bridge is now used by up to 19,000 vehicles every day. The existing structure has deteriorated and no longer meets current road design standards so it needs to be replaced.

Roads and Maritime investigated a number of different options including repairing and replacing the bridge. We found restoration of the existing structure would only add a limited period to the life of the bridge before additional costly repairs or replacement would be needed.

Community consultation on the project began in 2009 and has continued throughout the development process. We have considered the issues raised during consultation together with environmental and heritage studies in finalising the design.

More information about the project including questions and answers, reports and project updates is available at rms.nsw.gov.au by searching ‘Windsor Bridge’.
Key features

Key features include:

- A new bridge with two lanes 35 metres downstream of the existing Windsor Bridge
- New approach roads and intersections to connect the new bridge to the existing road network
- New traffic lights with pedestrian facilities at the intersection of Bridge Street and George Street
- Modified local roads and access arrangements, including changes to the Macquarie Park access road and reconnection of The Terrace
- A new dual lane roundabout at the intersection of Wilberforce Street and Freemans Reach Road
- Pedestrian and cyclist facilities, including a shared path for access to and across the new bridge
- Removal and backfill of the existing bridge approach roads
- Removal of the existing bridge once the new bridge is operational
- Landscaping and urban design work, including within the Thompson Square parkland area and adjacent to the northern intersection of Wilberforce Road, Freemans Reach Road and the Macquarie Park access road.

Project approval conditions

In December 2013, Roads and Maritime received approval to deliver the project under Part 5.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Approval was granted by the Minister for Planning subject to a number of conditions:

- Preparation of a Strategic Conservation Management Plan to help us conserve and minimise impacts to Thompson Square and historical sites
- Preparation of an Interpretation Plan to outline procedures for interpreting heritage items
- Archival recording of historic sites
- An archaeological investigation program of Aboriginal and cultural heritage in the project area
- Preparation of an Urban Design and Landscape Plan for the project that is sympathetic to the heritage values and significance of the Thompson Square conservation area.

Environmental and heritage investigations

From April 2016, Roads and Maritime will start carrying out environmental and heritage investigations to meet our approval conditions and help refine the detailed design for the project.

Work will include:

- An archaeological investigation program including heritage, Aboriginal and maritime studies
- Archival recording of historic sites at Thompson Square, Windsor Bridge and surrounds
- Environmental investigations including water quality monitoring.

Roads and Maritime has engaged environmental and heritage specialists to carry out these activities. Residents and businesses near the project area will be notified before work starts and we will keep the community informed as it progresses.

Artist’s impression of the new bridge looking north

Artist’s impression of the new bridge looking south
**Next steps**

- **PROJECT ANNOUNCED (JUNE 2008)**
- **CONSULTATION ON NINE OPTIONS (JULY 2009)**
- **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT (NOVEMBER 2009)**
- **CONSULTATION ON PREFERRED OPTION (AUGUST 2011)**
- **COMMUNITY ISSUES REPORT (OCTOBER 2011)**
- **CONSULTATION ON CONCEPT DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (NOVEMBER 2012)**
- **SUBMISSIONS REPORT (MAY 2013)**
- **PROJECT APPROVED BY THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE (DECEMBER 2013)**
- **START ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS, ARCHIVAL RECORDING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING ACTIVITIES (EARLY 2016)**
- **CONSULTATION ON URBAN DESIGN AND LANDSCAPING (MID-2016)**
- **INVITE CONSTRUCTION TENDERS (LATE 2016)**
- **FINALISE DETAILED DESIGN AND AWARD CONSTRUCTION TENDER (EARLY 2017)**
- **START CONSTRUCTION (MID 2017)**
- **OPEN TO TRAFFIC (MID-2019)**

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**Contact us**

For more information about the project, please contact:

- **1800 712 909**
- **windsor_bridge@rms.nsw.gov.au**
- **Windsor Bridge replacement PO Box 973, Parramatta NSW 2124**
- **www.rms.nsw.gov.au**
  and search ‘Windsor Bridge’

This document contains important information about road projects in your area. If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call the project team on 1800 810 680. The interpreter will then assist you with translation.

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