



7 December 2022

Mr Luke Gosling OAM MP  
Chair  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Gosling OAM MP

**SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S INQUIRY INTO THE IMPLICATIONS OF SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS ON THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL, RURAL, AND REMOTE ROAD NETWORK**

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to contribute to the Australian Government's Inquiry into the implications of severe weather events on the national, regional, rural, and remote road network. With the attachments, my submission exceeded the ten pages and I apologise, but this inquiry is extremely important and relevant as a result of the 2022 severe weather events. By improving the climate resilience of the highways, roads and corridors mentioned in my submission will also assist with:

- Improved road safety for all road users.
- Improved efficiency and network reliability.
- Improved accessibility and connectivity of road networks.
- Improved business sustainability across all sectors including manufacturing, agriculture and tourism.
- Improved access to medical and allied medical practitioners and facilities.
- Reduced isolation for communities, businesses and farmers.

### **The Newell Highway**

The Newell Highway is a National Highway and is Australia's third largest freight corridor and is a critical link in Australia's freight transport network. The Newell Highway contributes to the competitiveness of Australia's agriculture and mining sectors by opening up access to essential freight networks in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. It is the longest highway in New South Wales (NSW), stretching over 1,060 (1,046 as per the attached google map) kilometres from the Queensland border at Goondiwindi to the Victorian border at Tocumwal <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/newell-highway/index.html>. I have attached a copy of the National Land Transport Network Road – NSW 2020 and Australia 2020, from the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communication to show the context and location of the Newell Highway in the NSW and the National Highway network.

On the 28 March 2019, The Hon Michael McCormack MP Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development announced the Riverina will benefit from

upgrades to key regional freight routes under the Federal Liberal and Nationals Government’s \$3.5 billion Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) initiative.

In the attached media release The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development and Federal Member for Riverina Michael McCormack said, *through ROSI, the Government would invest \$300 million in New South Wales of the \$510 million commitment to upgrade the freight corridor between Toowoomba in Queensland and Seymour in Victoria.*

With the change of Government and The Treasurer delivering the Federal Budget on Tuesday 25 October 2022, I am not sure if the \$300 million for NSW will be affected although I did find the following information in the 2022-23 budget papers:

Budget Paper No 3 page 54

[https://budget.gov.au/2022-23-october/content/bp3/download/bp3\\_2022-23.pdf](https://budget.gov.au/2022-23-october/content/bp3/download/bp3_2022-23.pdf)

**Budget** October 2022–23 | Budget Paper No. 3

## Infrastructure

In 2022-23, the Australian Government will provide funding of \$14.0 billion to support state infrastructure projects, as detailed in Table 2.8.

**Table 2.8: Payments to support state infrastructure services<sup>(a)</sup>**

\$million	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
<b>National Partnership payments</b>				
Infrastructure Investment Program				
Black Spot Projects	120.1	120.1	120.1	120.1
Bridges Renewal Program	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0
Developing Northern Australia				
Improving cattle supply chains	3.8	1.1	0.5	2.1
Northern Australia Roads	23.6	57.7	115.5	133.7
Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program	70.0	90.0	100.0	100.0
Major Projects Business Case Fund	63.4	47.8	40.3	5.4
Rail investment component	3,309.8	3,497.8	3,555.2	3,946.6
Road investment component	7,033.9	8,596.4	8,663.4	8,170.2
<b>Roads of Strategic Importance</b>	<b>793.8</b>	<b>741.7</b>	<b>914.2</b>	<b>857.2</b>
Roads to Recovery	492.3	483.9	499.5	499.5
Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan	169.6	376.0	299.7	76.4
<b>Total Infrastructure Investment Program</b>	<b>12,175.4</b>	<b>14,107.6</b>	<b>14,403.4</b>	<b>14,006.2</b>

Budget Paper 3 page 59

[https://budget.gov.au/2022-23-october/content/bp3/download/bp3\\_2022-23.pdf](https://budget.gov.au/2022-23-october/content/bp3/download/bp3_2022-23.pdf)

Budget Paper No. 3 | **Budget** October 2022–23

### **Roads of Strategic Importance**

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2022-23	97.3	44.0	199.6	178.5	90.8	111.6	-	72.1	793.8
2023-24	98.3	41.9	197.2	111.9	41.5	139.9	-	111.1	741.7
2024-25	155.2	43.7	233.6	214.2	4.8	162.0	-	100.8	914.2
2025-26	126.1	43.5	188.7	210.5	-	158.1	-	130.4	857.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>476.9</b>	<b>173.1</b>	<b>819.0</b>	<b>715.0</b>	<b>137.1</b>	<b>571.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>414.3</b>	<b>3,306.9</b>

The Australian Government is providing funding to upgrade key freight routes across Australia to improve access for businesses and communities to essential services, markets and employment opportunities.

## **The Newell Highway Flooding between West Wyalong and Forbes in 2016**

The Newell Highway is the third largest freight corridor in Australia and in the attached copy of The Newell Highway closure in 2016 from flooding: The direct and indirect effects report, it mentions that the Newell Highway has been flooded and or closed between West Wyalong and Forbes in 1950, 1952, 1956, 1962, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1983, 1990 for twelve weeks, 1993, 1996, 2012 and in 2016 for six weeks.

The attached report provides estimates of the direct and indirect cost of the closure of the Newell Highway between 23 September and 4 November 2016. The total conservative direct gross cost from the national perspective is estimated at \$<sub>CVM</sub>112 million. The \$<sub>CVM</sub> price year is 2014-15.

As mentioned previously and in the attached report, the Newell Highway has been flooded and or closed between West Wyalong and Forbes in 1950, 1952, 1956, 1962, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1983, 1990 for twelve weeks, 1993, 1996, 2012 and in 2016 for six weeks. One has to ask why the NSW Government hasn't not allocated more funds and resources to reduce the flooding and closures and to flood proof and make the highway climate resilient. The question also needs to be asked to the NSW Government is why is the third largest freight corridor in Australia and the longest highway in NSW has not been engineered and constructed to the standards required to enhance the climate resiliency and sustainability of the Newell Highway as a result of normal and severe weather events including natural diasters?

To reduce the flooding of the Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes the water catchment areas needs to be considered including:

- Wyangala Dam
- The Lachlan River
- The Bland Creek and the Bland Creek catchment (refer to the map in the attached report)
- Lake Cowal (<https://lakecowalfoundation.wpcomstaging.com/>)
- Sandy Creek
- Caragabal Creek
- Ooma Creek
- Back Creek
- Lignum Creek
- Spring Creek
- Mana Creek
- Tyagong Creek
- Burrangong Creek
- Deep Creek

Some of the above mentioned creeks also impact the Mid Western Highway which joins the Newell Highway at Marsden NSW. The entire length of the Mid Western Highway from Bathurst to Hay also needs to be engineered and constructed to the standards required to enhance the resiliency and sustainability as a result of normal and severe weather events and natural disasters.

Following the flooding of the Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes in 2016, on Thursday 28 February 2019 the NSW Government announced \$200 million in new funding to flood-proof the highway between West Wyalong and Forbes. I have attached a copy of the media release and information on the Newell Highway Flood Immunity – West Wyalong to Forbes project can be found at the following link: <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/newell-highway/west-wyalong-flood-immunity.html>

In July 2021 the NSW Government provided an update on the project which I have attached a copy. In July 2022 the NSW Government provided the following update:

*Investigation continues, work has been ongoing to investigate and develop a number of potential options to improve flood immunity to several sections of the Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes. A comprehensive flood study, which includes modelling of the Lachlan River*

and Lake Cowal, has been developed. This flood study will be used to help inform which options can be used in each location. Options that are being considered include improved drainage, raising of the road, bridges and pavement improvements.

Improving flood immunity on these sections of the Newell Highway is complex and it is important that the appropriate development work is carried out. Once we have completed this stage, we will be able to advise what options are being progressed further and when we can start on the environmental approval process.

### **Newell Highway Closures Heavy Vehicle Diversion Impact, Increased Road Maintenance Expenditure and Costs, Safety Issues and Damage to Motor Vehicles**

In the attached Newell Highway report it mentions the heavy vehicle diversion impact, increased road maintenance expenditure and costs relating to the closure of the Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes. The Local Government areas that the traffic is diverted through are facing enormous road maintenance costs as the roads were not built to handle the amount of extra traffic and heavy vehicles. This diverted traffic also increases the risk of traffic accidents due to the increase in vehicles and the poor deteriorating conditions of the road network. There is also the costs incurred in repairing damaged motor vehicles hitting pot holes and the water damage on the ingress of water into the bearings and other areas of the motor vehicles

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1594949288010084352>. With this latest severe weather event I have to replace my front windscreen twice in one week due broken asphalt from the pot holes being projected by passing motor vehicles hitting my windscreen. Other costs incurred by the Local Governments is the manning of the road closed intersections on the main roads twenty four hours a day seven days a week and staff answering road condition enquiries and road inspections.

### **2022 Severe Weather Event and the Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes**

The Newell Highway from West Wyalong to Forbes was closed on 25 October 2022 due to flooding and at the time of writing this submission in December 2022, the Newell Highway is still closed between West Wyalong and Forbes. I will make the comment that the wheels turn extremely slow at the NSW Government and no new infrastructure work has commenced to fix the flooding between West Wyalong and Forbes except for the continual repairing the flood affected sections from the 2016 flooding and preparing reports and studies to reduce the flood impact since 2016. The level of the highway should be raised, concreted, bridges and culverts installed.

The following newspaper article appeared in the Wagga Wagga Daily advertiser on Saturday 3 December 2022 <https://www.dailyadvertiser.com.au/story/8005103/deterioration-of-regional-roads-subject-of-new-inquiry/?src=rss> with the article mentioning the Newell and Sturt Highways.

## **INQUIRY INTO ROADS**

BY GEORGIA ROSSITER

A PARLIAMENTARY inquiry has been launched into the impact of severe weather events on Australia's national and regional road network.

Announced this week, the probe - led by the federal standing committee on regional development, infrastructure and transport - will

investigate how roads can be built more resiliently to withstand ongoing impacts of climate change and the role of the government in planning.

"The committee is concerned about the increasing deterioration of the nation's road network, particularly in regional, rural, and remote areas," its chair, Northern Territory-based MP Luke

Gosling, said. "The extreme flooding events and other natural disasters across the nation have impacted many Australians, and the committee is seeking to understand how road planning and construction may be improved."

It comes after the NSW government announced a \$50 million emergency fund for regional and rural

councils to help repair roads after many were damaged by floods. Coolamon Shire Council was awarded more than \$480,000 to help fix its sealed road system after traffic from both the Newell and the Sturt Highway was diverted through the town.

Coolamon mayor David McCann said the cash was "appreciated" but "not

enough". "Once the Newell Highway closed, and the diversion for traffic east and west fell on Coolamon roads, they started to break up and cause significant damage," he said. "Whilst that funding is welcome, more thought and funds need to be put into improving the road systems throughout regional NSW."

Continued: Page 2

# Work on long-term fix

From: Page 1

NSW Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Sam Faraway said the government was looking at how to improve state highways like the Sturt and Newell to better prepare them for severe weather.

Visiting Wagga on Thursday, the minister said he was working with the premier, Dominic Perrottet, and the Commonwealth to create a new betterment fund for areas including the Central West

and the Riverina.

"My view is that we need to build resilience into our road infrastructure," Minister Faraway said.

"There's still a lot of work to do to get the betterment fund up and running, but it is certainly something the NSW government is working on behind the scenes."

The roads inquiry also intends to investigate possibilities for climate resilient corridors, if using waterproof products would increase the

resilience of roads and the construction standards that should be required.

Cr McCann said it was a good way to evaluate the state of the roads across NSW before embarking on projects to fix them.

"It's important that we have an understanding of what work is needed to bring roads not only in the Coolamon Shire but right across the region up to an acceptable standard," he said.

"I think it's very important

that the state government and the federal government contribute to the road network, and that it's done as an overarching approach so there's actually a plan in place."

Wagga City Council received more than \$793,000 to put towards patching roads, but mayor Dallas Tout said the council was still determining how many roads the funding would cover.

"We're currently assessing and prioritising the areas

that will be receiving [the funding] and we're already engaging external contractors," Cr Tout said.

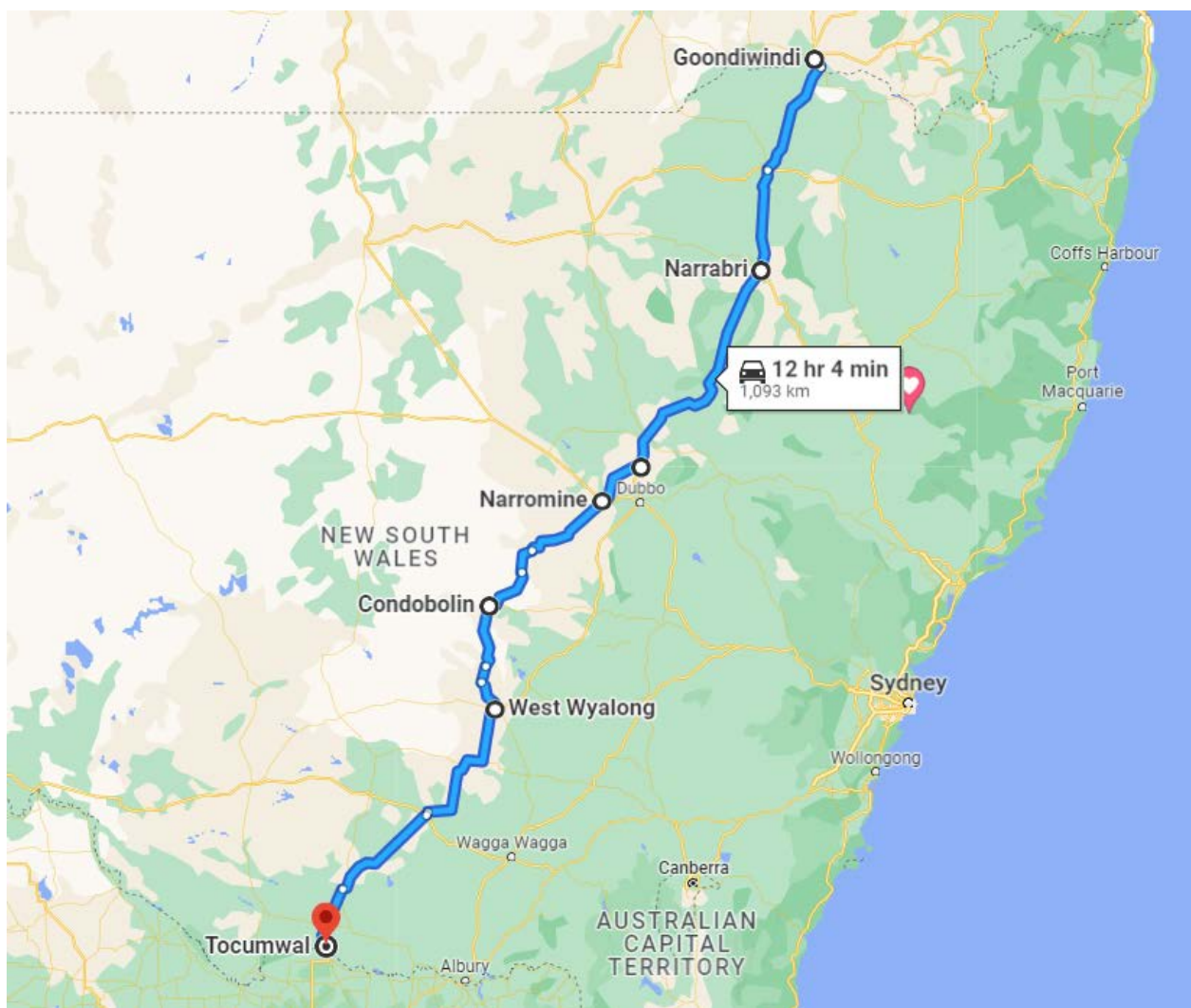
"It's a statewide issue. This is money to get things going and to kick it off, but it won't finish the story."

Minister Faraway said work had already begun on laying heavy duty asphalt on sections of the Newell Highway.

Written submissions to the inquiry are open until February 28, 2023.

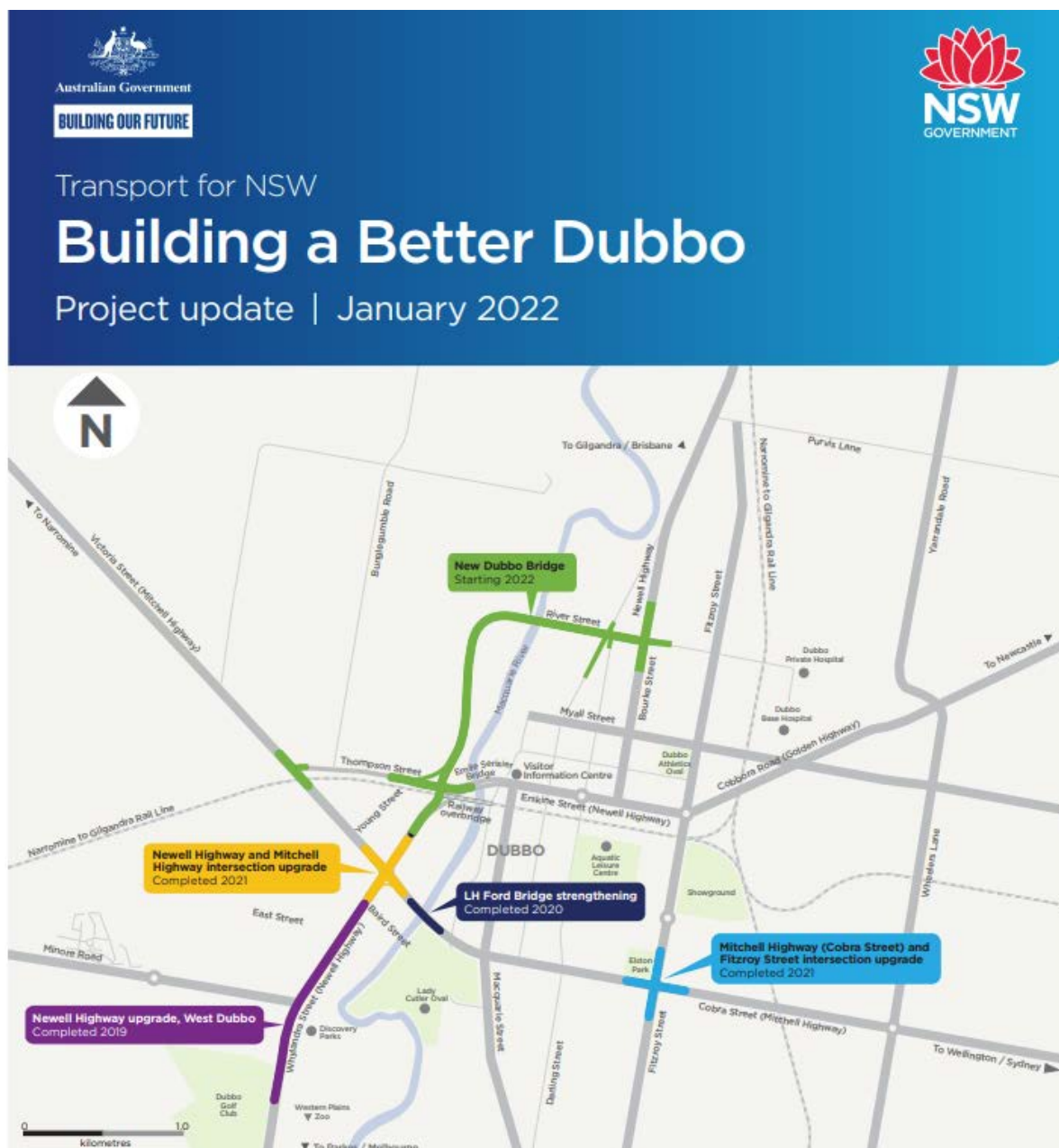
## Alternate Newell Highway Climate Resilient Corridor

An alternate climate resilient corridor for the Newell Highway may be to turn off the Newell Highway at Eumungerie (north of Dubbo) then to Narromine, Condobolin and re-join the Newell Highway at West Wyalong which can be seen in the following and attached Google map:



## New Dubbo Bridge on the Newell Highway

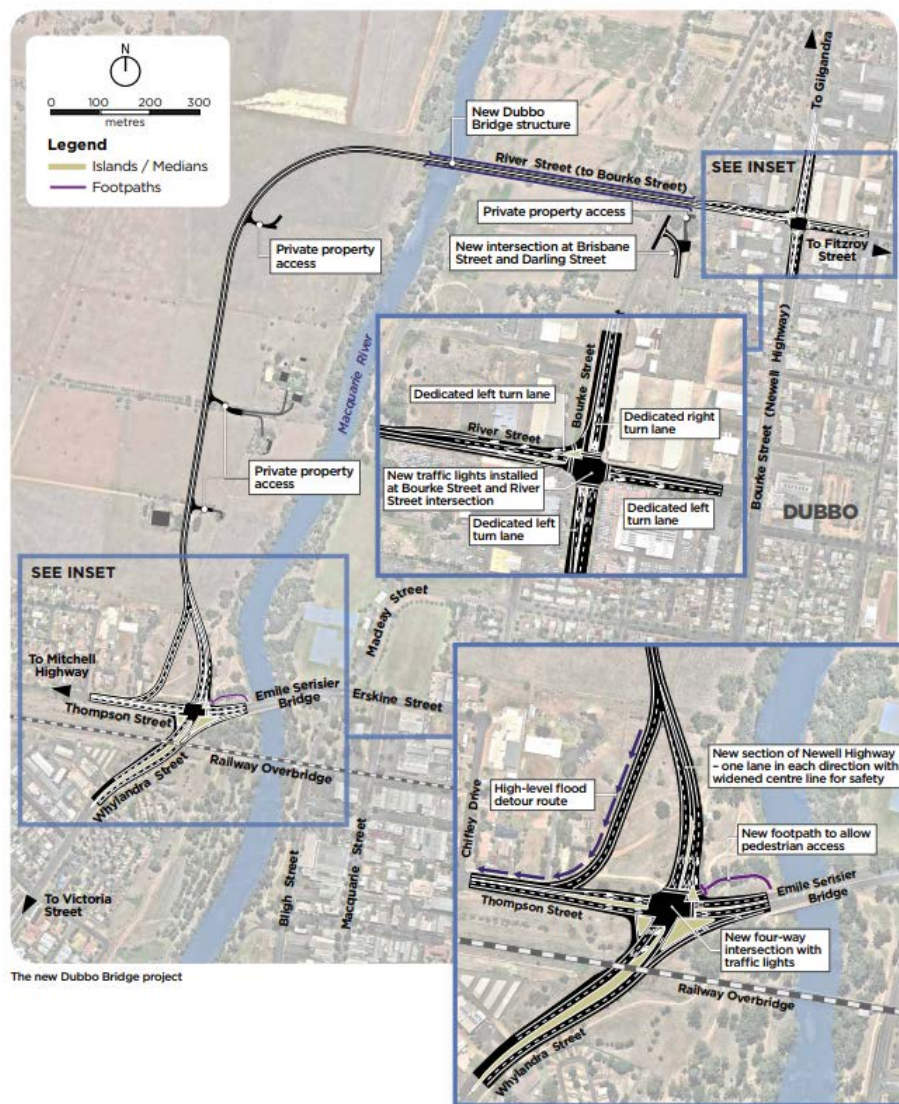
There is a new 660 metre bridge that will connect the western side of the Macquarie River to River Street in Dubbo, travelling over the flood plain west of the river.



The Newell Highway Upgrade - New Dubbo Bridge project will also include:

- New and upgraded intersections at Thompson Street, Whylandra Street, and the Newell Highway
- Realigning the Newell Highway with new separated lanes north of Whylandra Street
- Upgrading the intersection at Bourke Street and River Street.

Full funding for the Newell Highway Upgrade - New Dubbo Bridge project has been confirmed, comprising of \$176 million from the Australian Government and \$44 million from the NSW Government <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/dubbo-bridge/index.html>.

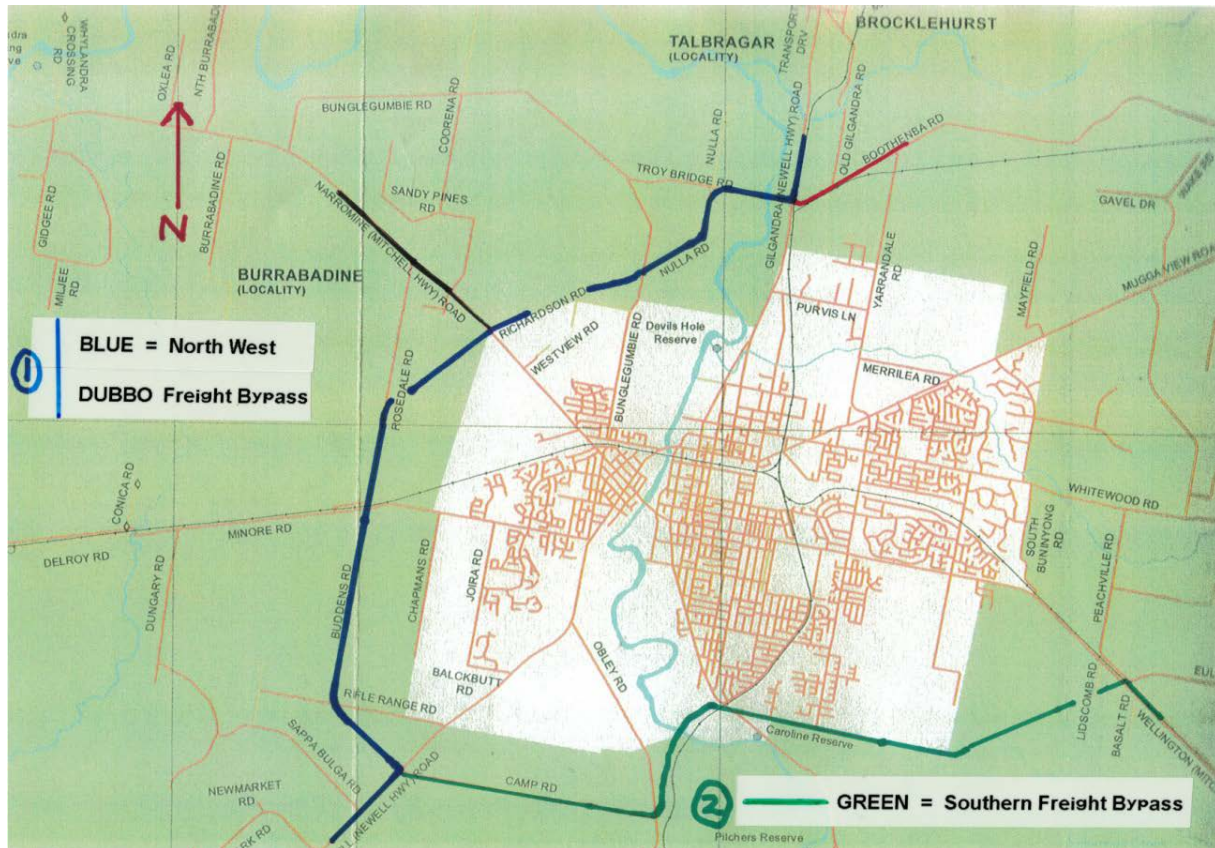


The new Dubbo Bridge project

There has been a lot of concerns about the location of this new bridge as this new bridge approach and exit roads will flood as can be seen in the following photo and there has been a climate resilient alternate Dubbo flood free freight bypass route suggested as can be seen in the schematic on the next page:



## Climate Resilient Alternate Dubbo Flood Free Freight Bypass Route



So the question needs to ask, why would you spend \$220 million in building a new bridge that will flood when there is or may be a climate resilient alternative route?

### Other Areas That Flood On the Newell Highway

There are other areas that flood on the Newell Highway besides the section between West Wyalong and Forbes and Dubbo and some of these areas include:

- Between Boggabilla and Moree at various locations
- Moree
- Narrabri
- Tichborne between Forbes and Parkes at the Goobang Creek
- Ardlethan area
- Narrandera / Gillenbah

### Sturt Highway

The Sturt Highway is a National Highway and important freight and transport corridor and critical link in Australia's freight transport network. The Sturt Highway commences in NSW off the Hume Highway to the outskirts of Gawler in South Australia covering a distance of 948 kilometres.

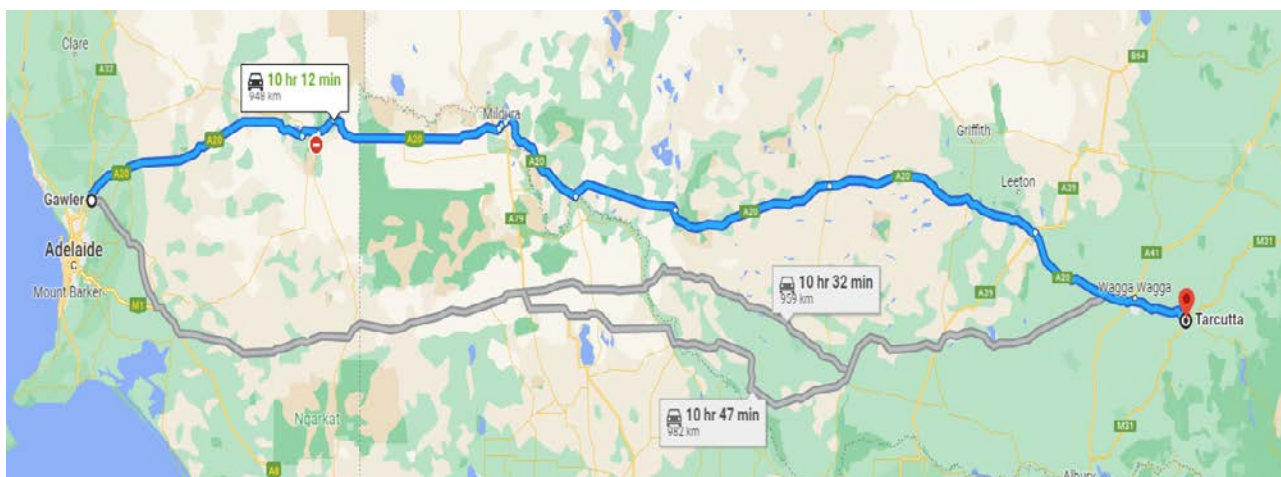
The Sturt Highway starts nine kilometres north of Tarcutta on the Hume Highway in NSW and heads west through Wagga Wagga and the towns of Narrandera, Darlington Point, Hay, Balranald, Euston, leaving NSW by crossing the Murray River into Victoria from Buronga to Mildura. The highway continues more or less due west through the northwest of Victoria before entering South Australia.



In South Australia, Sturt Highway passes Renmark, Monash, Barmera, Waikerie, Blanchetown and Nuriootpa, where it reaches its western terminus on Main North Road on the outskirts of Gawler.

In 2022 the Sturt Highway has been flooded and or closed in Wagga Wagga and from Wagga Wagga to Darlington Point. Then closed near Gum Creek, west of Darlington Point and was closed to light vehicles just west of Hay, but is open to 4WDs and heavy vehicles under stop/slow traffic control. I am also lead to believe the Sturt Highway was flooded and or closed for 143 kilometres near Blanchetown in South Australia with diversions on the Goyder and Thiele Highways.

As the Sturt Highway is an important transport corridor then it must be engineered and constructed to enhance the resiliency of the highway. The attached National Highway map shows the context and location of the Sturt Highway in relation to the National Highway network.



**Other Highways, Roads, Ways and Avenues to be engineered and constructed to enhance the resiliency include:**

State	Highways, Roads, Ways, Avenues
NSW	Escort Way from Forbes to Orange
NSW	Canowindra Road from Cowra to Cudal
NSW	Cargo Road from the Canowindra Road to Orange
NSW	Lachlan Valley Way from Cowra to Forbes
NSW	The Olympic Hwy from north of Albury through Wagga Wagga, Young to Cowra
NSW	Kidman Way from north of Jerilderie through Griffith, Cobar to Bourke
NSW	Henry Parkes Way from Parkes to the Escort Way
NSW	Goldfields Way from the Olympic Hwy to West Wyalong
NSW	Burley Griffin Way from Griffith through Temora, Harden to the Hume Hwy
NSW	Henry Lawson Way from Young through Grenfell to Forbes
NSW	Federation Way from Morundah to the Riverina Highway
NSW	Riverina Highway from Berrigan to Corowa
NSW	Milvale Road from Temora to Young
NSW	Grogan Road from Mary Gilmore Way to Stockinbingal
NSW	Morangarell Road from Milvale Road to Grogan Road
NSW	Barmedman Road from Mary Gilmore Road to Henry Lawson Way
NSW	Mary Gilmore Way Ardlethan Road to Grenfell
NSW	Trungley Hall Road from Temora to the Mary Gilmore Way

State	Highways, Roads, Ways, Avenues
NSW	Gooloogong Road from Grenfell to the Warraderry Way south of Gooloogong
NSW	Warraderry Way from south of Gooloogong to Nangar Road
NSW	Nangar Road from Eugowra to Canowindra
NSW	Mallee Highway from south of Balranald in NSW through Victoria into South Australia to the Dukes Highway
NSW	Yanga Way south of Balranald
NSW	Renmark Road from Wentworth NSW to South Australia Renmark Wentworth Road
NSW	Rufus River Road from Renmark Road to Renmark Road
NSW	Cobb Highway from Deniliquin through to the Barrier Highway
VIC	Murray Valley Highway
VIC	Mallee Highway from south of Balranald in NSW through Victoria into South Australia to the Dukes Highway
SA	Mallee Highway from south of Balranald in NSW through Victoria into South Australia to the Dukes Highway
SA	Dukes Highway
SA	Goyder Highway from Monash to Morgan
SA	Thiele Highways from Morgan to Kupunda
SA	Renmark Road from Wentworth NSW to South Australia Renmark Wentworth Road
SA	Wentworth - Renmark Road from the SA border to Ral Ral Avenue Renmark
SA	Ral Ral Avenue Renmark

I mentioned in the table above, Canowindra and Cargo Roads and the following photos were taken on a recent road trip to take someone from Grenfell to Orange Hospital. This was not the normal route as the roads that I usually take were still damaged, flooded or bridges being washed away or being repaired.



**Some photos of road conditions, potholes, closed and flooded roads**





## NSW Live Traffic Website and Local Government Road Closures

The NSW Live Traffic website <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/live-traffic-nsw> is service managed by Transport for NSW's Transport Management Centre and provides real-time information about roads and changed traffic conditions only on State owned roads throughout NSW.

On the NSW Live Traffic website you can find out about changes resulting from:

- scheduled roadwork
- major events
- weather events
- other unplanned disruptions.

The NSW Government Departments and Emergency Service Organisations direct travellers and road users to the NSW Live Traffic website during severe weather events and natural disasters.

The issue is that NSW Live Traffic website does provide real time information about Local Government roads and road closures. To find out this information you have to find each Local Government area road closures and phone them and or visit each of the Council website to obtain the information. It would be beneficial if the NSW Live Traffic website included the Local Government roads, and better still it would be good to have a national version of the NSW Live Traffic website that includes all Local Government roads. I have attached a copy of the Local Government road closures during this latest severe wet weather event for the following Local Government areas on 4 November 2022:

- Junee Shire Council
- Temora Shire Council
- Bland Shire Council
- Hilltops Council
- Cowra Shire Council
- Forbes Shire Council
- Weddin Shire Council
- Wagga Wagga City Council

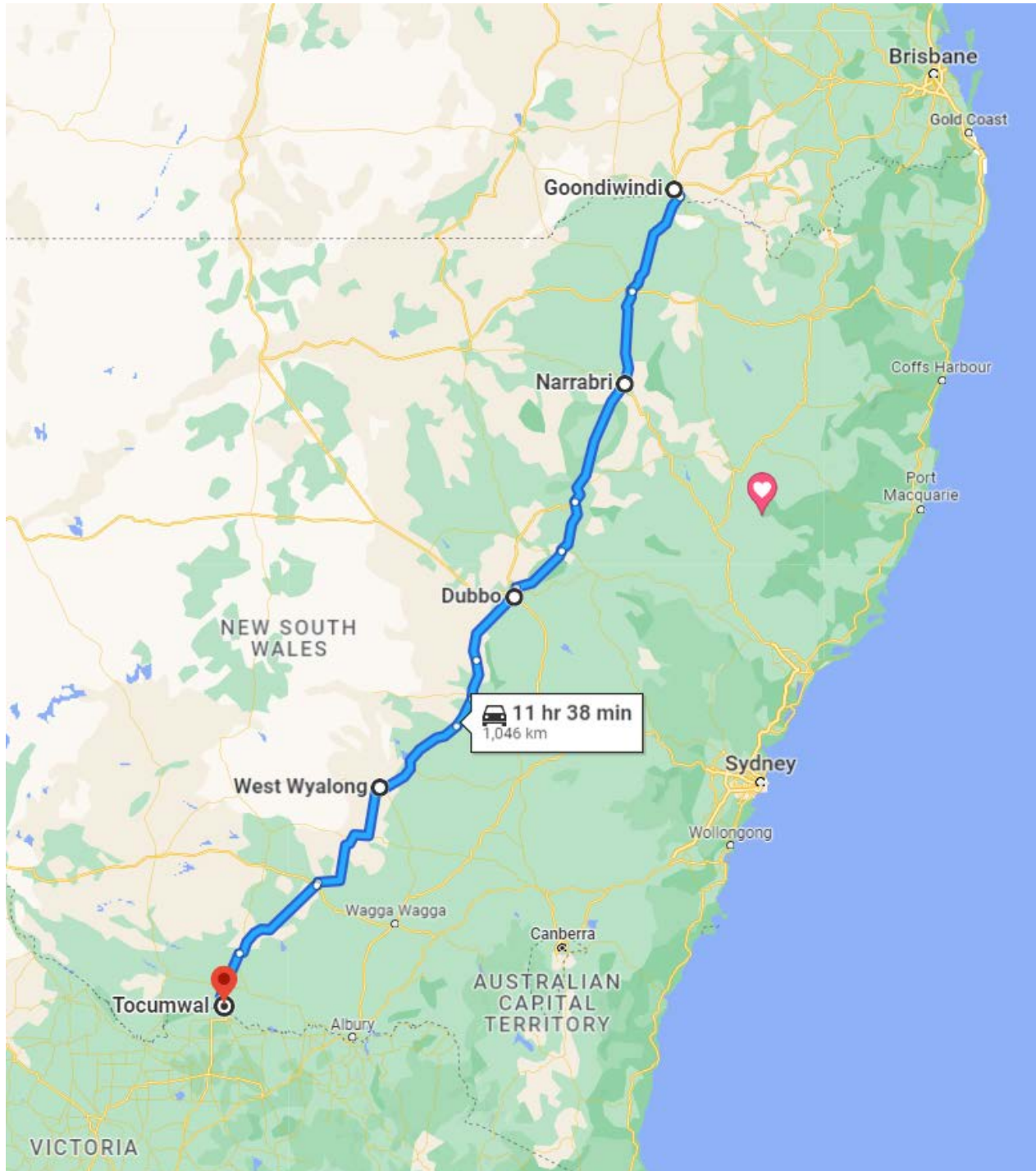
Some of the above mentioned Councils divert you to a Facebook page and not everyone has a Facebook account and you need to access this information twenty four hours a day seven days a week and in areas of regional Australia you do not have mobile phone or internet coverage.

Once again thank you for providing me the opportunity to contribute to the Australian Government's Inquiry into the implications of severe weather events on the national, regional, rural, and remote road network.

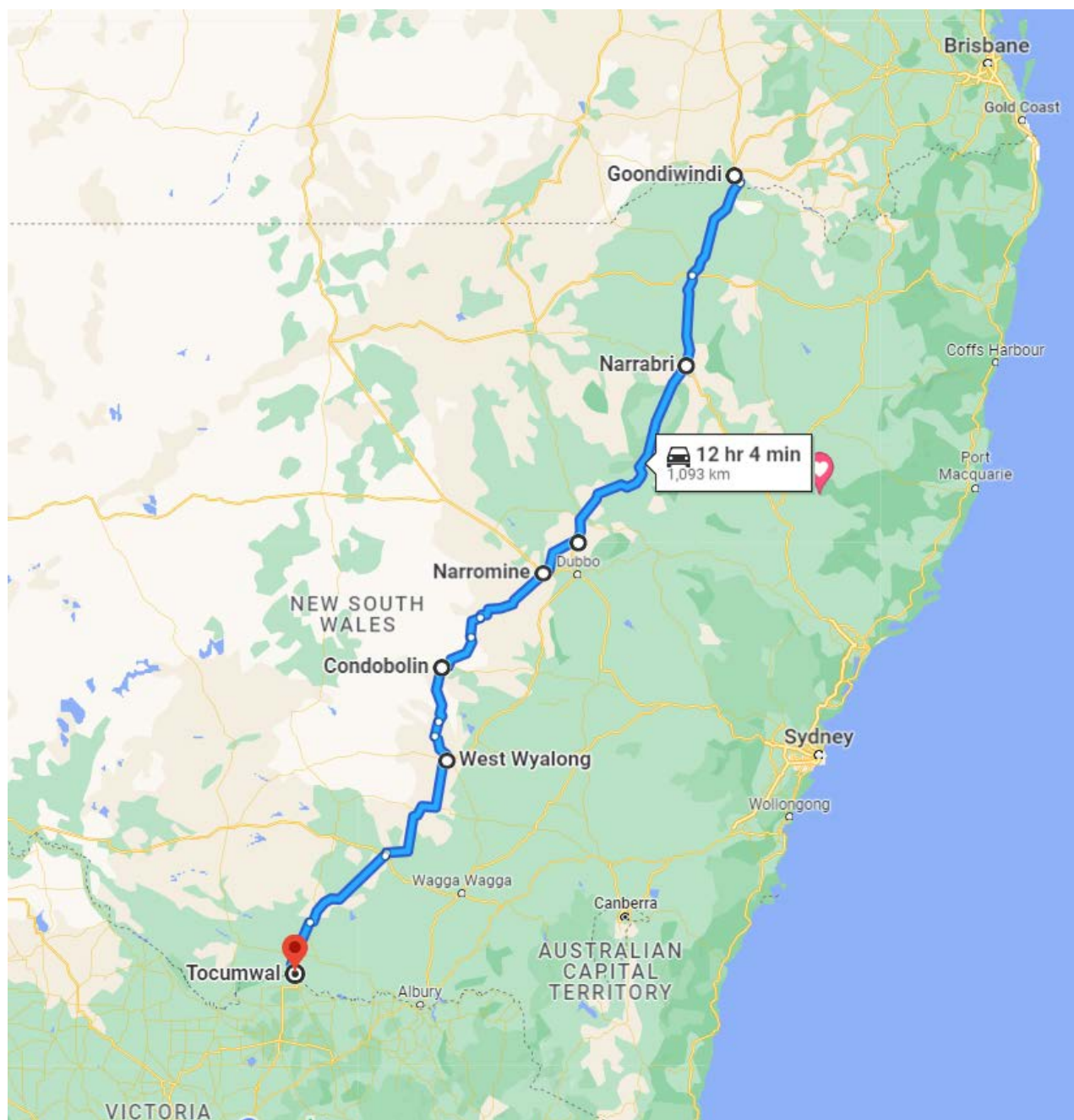
Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature block]

### Newell Highway Google Maps



### Newell Highway Possible Alternate Route Google Maps



# NATIONAL LAND TRANSPORT NETWORK ROAD - NEW SOUTH WALES

(NLTN DETERMINATION 2020)

Inquiry into the implications of severe weather events on the national regional, rural, and remote road network

Submission #



# NATIONAL LAND TRANSPORT NETWORK - ROAD CORRIDORS

(NLTN DETERMINATION 2020)

Inquiry into the implications of severe weather events on the national regional, rural, and remote road network  
Submission 4







## The Hon Michael McCormack MP

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

Leader of The Nationals

Federal Member for Riverina

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### MEDIA RELEASE

28 March 2019

#### **‘ROSI’ FUTURE FOR INLAND NSW FREIGHT ROUTE**

THE Riverina will benefit from upgrades to key regional freight routes under the Federal Liberal and Nationals Government’s \$3.5 billion Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) initiative.

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development and Federal Member for Riverina Michael McCormack said through ROSI, the Government would invest \$300 million in New South Wales of the \$510 million commitment to upgrade the freight corridor between Toowoomba in Queensland and Seymour in Victoria.

“This is a huge investment that will support regional communities and jobs across three states, including right here in the Riverina,” Mr McCormack said.

“The Newell Highway is a 1,062-kilometre corridor of commerce and is one of the busiest freight highways in Australia. It is the longest highway in New South Wales.

“Not only is it a vital freight link, it is an important tourism link to the Riverina and Central West. You only have to take a short drive along the route to see how many drivers towing caravans use the thoroughfare to discover our wonderful part of the world.

“The Government wants to make sure this important transport corridor is fully maintained.

“Investments under ROSI will address pinch points and impediments to efficient freight movements along the corridor, improving travel times, better connecting communities and supporting the economy.

“Here in regional NSW, this investment will be informed by the Newell Highway Corridor Strategy, which is considering efficient outcomes in the movement of regional freight, challenges such as road safety and flooding, as well as the relationship between the Newell Highway and Inland Rail.”

Mr McCormack said ROSI was investing in the key freight corridors that connected primary agricultural areas and mining resource regions to ports, airports and other transport hubs.

“The Federal Liberal and Nationals Government has been working with State and Territory governments and industry to determine priorities, with today’s announcement a great example of the progress made,” he said.

“Noting the \$300 million investment in New South Wales under the Government’s ROSI initiative, I call on the New South Wales Government to, at a minimum, contribute the equivalent of 20 per cent of the project value.

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The Hon Michael McCormack MP

Parliament House Canberra | (02) 6277 7520 | [minister.mccormack@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:minister.mccormack@infrastructure.gov.au)  
Suite 2, 11-15 Fitzmaurice Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 | [michael.mccormack.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:michael.mccormack.mp@aph.gov.au)

“This significant long-term investment will also contribute to a stronger economy through job creation and ensure opportunities are provided for small and medium-tier companies and their local workers.”

More information on ROSI is available at

[https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/key\\_projects/initiatives/roads\\_strategic\\_importance.aspx](https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/key_projects/initiatives/roads_strategic_importance.aspx).

Ends.

**Media Contact:**

Mr McCormack – Colin Bettles 0447 718 781 | Dom Hopkinson 0409 421 209



Thursday, February 28 2019

## FUNDING TO FLOW FOR A FLOOD-PROOF NEWELL

Travellers on the Newell Highway will experience a safer journey and improved freight productivity with the NSW Nationals in Government committing \$200 million in new funding to flood-proof the highway between West Wyalong and Forbes.

Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke said the significant investment will ensure the major highway is kept open during wet weather and improve protection against flooding.

“Previous flood events along the route have left locals stranded and unable to get to work, schools and access basic services, so this funding will help to safeguard against this ever happening again,” Ms Cooke said.

The news is not only significant for local communities, but also for travellers and freight network users from Brisbane to Melbourne.

“This funding will help to improve freight access, motorist safety and resilience against flood events for the 3000 motorists who use this section between West Wyalong and Forbes each day,” Ms Cooke said.

The work to improve the level of flood immunity will involve raising the existing road level to eliminate the impacts of flooding at key locations.

“Drainage structures are an important part of road building to ensure water can flow away from the road,” Ms Cooke said.

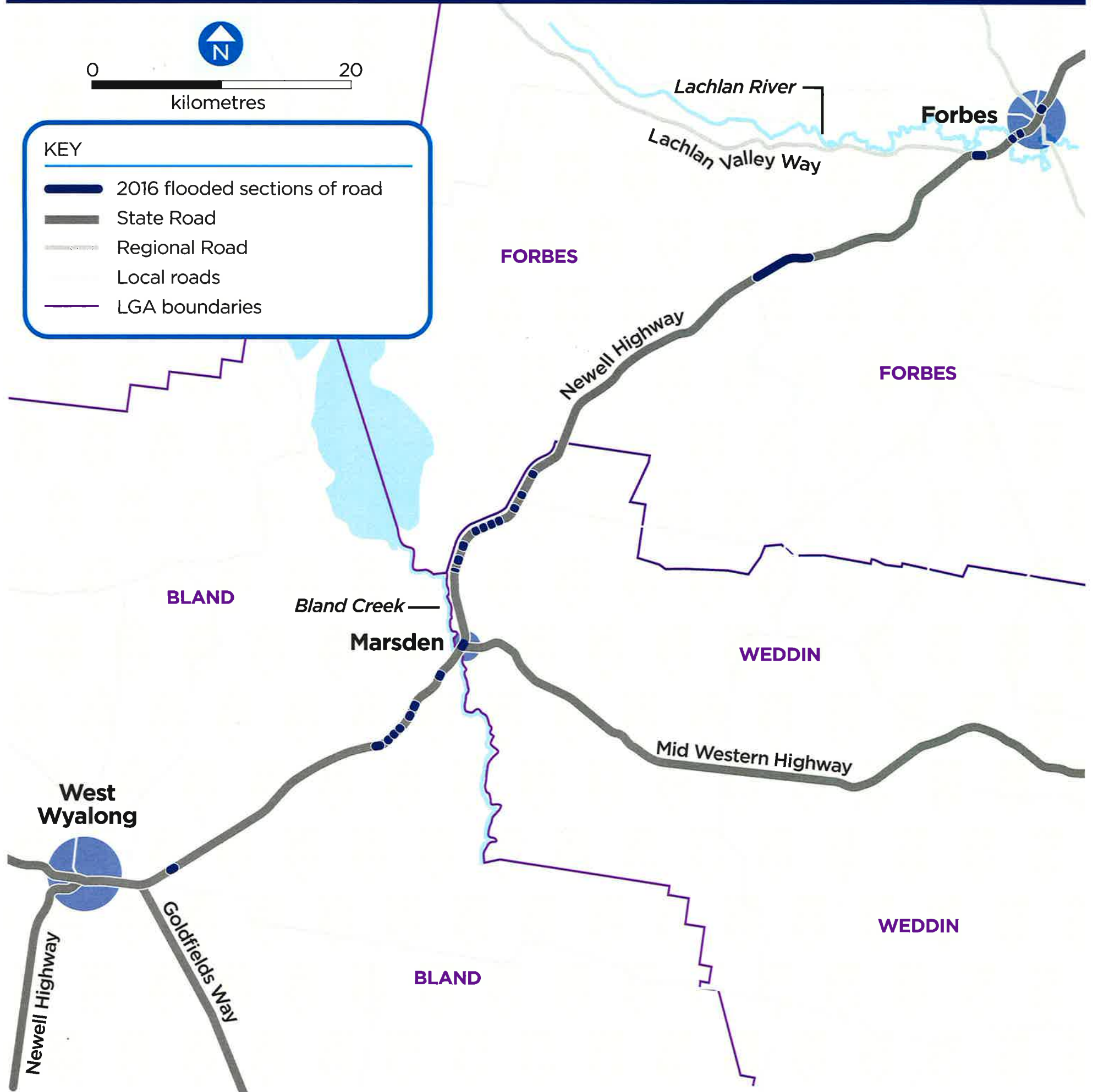
“The ambitious task ahead for the Newell Highway reflects the continued strong investment in regional infrastructure and maintenance across the next five years. Freight efficiency will be improved and significant job opportunities created.

“Roads and Maritime Services will consult heavily with our key stakeholders and work with the Forbes and West Wyalong communities through the development of the project to ensure all flooding impacts are considered along this length,” Ms Cooke said.

**MEDIA: Madeleine Clarke | Steph Cooke | 0402 765 845**



# 2016 flood affected areas on the Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes





Transport for NSW

# Newell Highway Flood Immunity, West Wyalong to Forbes

The NSW Government has committed \$200 million to provide flood immunity on various sections of the Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes

## Project background

The Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes has a history of road closures during periods of heavy rain and flooding in the Lachlan Catchment.

In September 2016 the West Wyalong to Forbes section was closed for 43 days and multiple sections of the highway, totalling 20 kilometres, were flooded.

Transport for NSW is investigating potential flood immunity solutions between Compton Road, West Wyalong and Hereford Street, Forbes.

The primary objective of the project is to provide increased flood immunity (defined as one lane - each way dry and trafficable for all vehicles) and improving up to 20 kilometres of the 110 kilometre length between the two towns.

## Project objectives:

- Achieving a minimum flood passable level of service (one lane open under traffic control) for an equivalent 2016 flood event
- Achieving a minimum flood immunity (one lane - each way dry and trafficable for all vehicles) for a 1 in 20 year flood event
- Assessing options for flood immunity and flood passable for up to a 1 in 50 year flood event

## Key features being considered include:

- Increasing the height of the highway to meet the flood immunity objectives
- Pavement and drainage improvements to allow water to pass freely under the highway
- Ancillary works including safety barriers, signage, line marking, landscaping and environmental protection works as required.

## Newell Highway Flood Immunity, West Wyalong to Forbes

### Where are we now?

The preliminary environmental investigation is complete and the project has now reached strategic and concept design stage. During the environmental investigations, work included reviewing existing flood studies and preliminary identification of flora and fauna species along the length of the project.


The strategic and concept design stage includes field and data collection, flood modelling and analysis, option selection, road design estimating, further environmental assessment and extensive consultation with nearby residents and key stakeholders.

### Next steps

We thank the community and land owners for their feedback so far and we will continue to consult with you as the project progresses, especially during the development of the flood model to collect flood data, over the next three months.

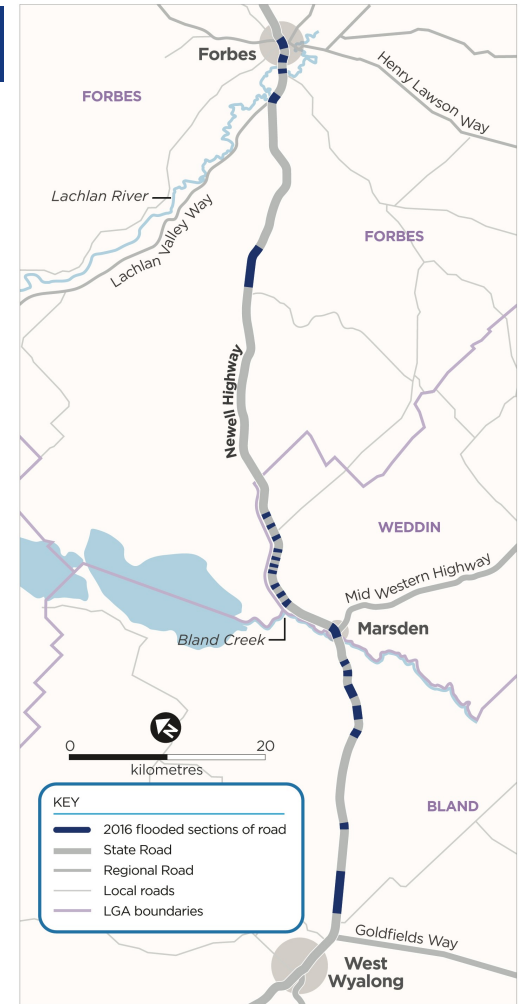
When options and locations for each section are chosen, we will continue to provide information to community members. When the Review of Environmental Factors and Concept Design is finalised the community will be invited to have their say and provide feedback. We will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses.

### Contact us

 1800 741 636 (option 5)

 [newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au)

 [nswroads.work/ww2f](http://nswroads.work/ww2f)



## Road Closures for Junee, Temora, Bland, Hilltops, Cowra Forbes, Weddin and Wagga Wagga Local Government Areas as at 4 November 2022

I will mention that at the time writing this submission in December 2022 there are roads mentioned in the following pages still closed due to damage or water over the road.



### Junee Road Closures <https://www.junee.nsw.gov.au/road-closures/>

- Loma Langi Lane
- Allawah
- Sandy Beach
- Moss Lane
- Dirnasser Road
- Wantiool Road
- Junee reef
- Kiaree Road
- Macaulays Lane
- River Road
- Eulomo Settlement Road
- Retreat Road
- Old Cootamundra
- Wantabadgery Road
- Combaning Road

Visit the Junee Council [page](#) for frequent updates on road conditions.



### Temora road closures <https://temora.disasterdashboards.com/dashboard/overview>

Temora Shire Council said following downstream flow of recent rainfall on Monday 31 October across the Temora Shire LGA, drivers were urged to use caution travelling and allow extra travel time for all travel.

“Local roads will be assessed for damage prior to being opened with council urging residents to avoid non-essential travel on unsealed roads in Temora Shire over the coming days,” Temora Council said in a statement.

The council said Trungley Hall Road was passable for local residents accessing properties, however council would be keeping this road closed while Mary Gilmore Way and Morangarell Road were closed.

- Mary Gilmore Way – closed between Barmedman and Grenfell (impassable and pavement damaged)
- Newell Highway is closed between West Wyalong and Forbes. Detour is via Burley Griffin Way from the Newell Highway West of Aria Park back to the Hume Highway
- Morangarell Road (water over road and pavement damaged)
- Trungley Hall Road (water over road)
- Thanowring Road
- Thanowring School Road
- Rodways Lane
- Bartondale Road
- Back Aria Park Road
- Walkers Road
- Garvins Road
- Pringles Road
- Trevaskis Lane
- Bartondale Road
- Howards Road
- Grogan Road
- Fraters Speedway
- Davidsons Road
- Cedar Road
- Booths Road
- Doolans Lane
- Baldwins Rd (causeway)
- Boginderra Road
- Chellington Road
- Goeschs Lane
- Tungle Hall Post Office Road



- Heinrichs Road
- Schlunkes Road
- Traegers Road
- Reynolds Lane
- Combaning School Road
- Sinclairs Road
- Donaldsons Lane
- Trigalong Road
- Wynds Lane
- Leonards Road
- News Road
- Schmidts Road
- Slingers Road
- Speirs Lane
- Gaunts Lane
- Mandamah Road
- Hartwigs Road
- Taylors Road
- Schuberts Road
- Back Mimosa Road
- Glynburn Road
- Mandamah Forest Road
- Bundawarra Road Gravel section
- Trewins Lane
- Research Station Road
- Springdam Road
- Hauslers Road
- Terlichs Road
- Dairy Street
- Thornes Road
- Fergusons Road
- Fishers Road
- Coddingtons Lane
- Wallundry Road

- Dinga Dingi Road
- Mortons Road
- Wilsons Road
- Boyds Road
- Pine Lodge Road
- Reynolds Lane
- Regans Road
- Rees Road
- Wests Road
- Shoards Road
- Nixons Road
- Slingers Road
- Wells Road
- Grants Lane
- Kellows Road
- McLeods Road

Burley Griffin Way and Goldenfields Way are now open.

For Burley Griffin Way and Goldfields Way updates refer to [Live Traffic](#).  
For council and regional roads refer to council's [Disaster Dashboard](#) noting some minor council roads may not be shown on the map as closed.



## **Bland Shire Council Road Condition Report**

<https://www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/Road-Closures>

### **Road Condition Report as at 4/11/2022**

All unsealed roads within the Bland Shire Council area remain closed to vehicles **over three (3) tonne** until **11.00am Monday 7 November 2022** when the situation will be reviewed. School buses, Evolution mine worker transportation, Emergency Services and Council road repair

plant are exempt, subject to normal risk assessment by individual operators.

Concessions are possible on request for urgent transport activity on routes considered suitable to carry the proposed loading. Please contact Council's Assets and Engineering Services Department for further information on the requirements of a concession.

Local traffic under three (3) tonne are requested to carry out their own risk assessment prior to travel, and extreme caution should be taken at all times when travelling on any open roads within the Shire.

Council regrets any inconvenience caused by this decision but the preservation of its road asset is of prime concern.

**Information relating to access on the Newell Highway or other State Roads can be found on the Live Traffic NSW website <https://www.livetraffic.com/>**

**Information relating to road access within neighbouring Councils should be directed to them in the first instance as the flooding situation is ever changing and evolving.**

#### **Local Road Closures to all traffic due to flooding:-**

- Kolkilbertoo Road – between Barellan and Weethalle
- Morangarell Road – between Quandialla Road and Mary Gilmore Way;
- Bena Road - at Humbug Creek Crossing, Ungarie;
- Naradhan Road – between Talleeban Road and Rankins Springs Road
- Sandy Creek Road – between Trembaths Lane and South Yalgogrin Road;
- Cattles Lane – near Irvines Lane;
- Mandamah Forest Road – between Newell Highway and Temora Shire boundary at Scotts Creek crossing;
- Tallimba/Ariah Park Road – between Tallimba and Newell Highway;
- Bygoo Road – between Tallimba and Ardlethan.

#### **Local Roads Open with extreme caution:-**

- Tallimba Road through causeways;
- Hannan Road, Naradhan;

- Kikoira Road at the Humbug Creek Crossing.

### **Local Roads temporarily closed to all traffic due to pavement damage:-**

- **Quandialla Road** – between Newell Highway and Weddin Shire boundary;
- **Girral Road** – between West Wyalong Condobolin Road and Blow Clear Road;
- **Gordons Lane** – between Clear Ridge Road and Blands Lane;
- **Uncle Bills Road** – from Blow Clear Road;
- **Wyrra Lane** – between Clear Ridge Road and Wamboyne Road;
- **Wargin Road** – between Hollands Lane and Blundens Lane;
- **Bolygamy Road** – between Browns Lane and Merrengreen Road;
- **Jillett Road** – between Richards Lane and Kittos Lane;

Updates on all Council affected roads will be provided on Council's website



<https://www.hilltops.nsw.gov.au/services/road-closures/>

Road closures and/or detours caused by adverse weather events throughout the Hilltops Region will be listed here:

Hilltops Council Road Closures **Thursday 3 November, as at 4.25pm**. Please never drive or walk through floodwaters.

#### **Boorowa area road closures**

Ballyryan Road	Closed
Bennett Springs Road	Closed
Bennett Springs Road	Closed
Brial Road	Closed
Campbellfields Road	Open
Cocomingla Road	Closed
Court Street	Open
Frogmore Road	Open
Geegullalong Road	Closed
Grassy Creek Road	Open
Harrys Creek Road	Closed
Heathfield Road	Open
Hughstonia Road	Open
Kenyu Road	Open
Murringo Road	Open

Old Wheeo Road	Closed
Rugby Road	Open
Rye Park Road	Open
Tarrants Gap Road	Closed
Taylor's Flat Road	Closed
Trucking Yards Road	Open
Wargeila Road	Open

### Young area road closures

Barwang Road	Closed
Bendick Murrell Bridge	Closed
Bowlers Road (Monteagle)	Closed
Bribbaree Road	Open (water on road at Thuddungra)
Chews Lane	Closed
Jerrybang Lane	Closed
Koorawatha-Greenthorpe Road at the Crowther Creek Bridge.	Closed – Please note crews are finding it hard to reach this location to put up signage.
Milvale Road – Grogan Bridge	Closed
Monteagle Stock Route	Closed
Moppity Road	Open
Olympic Highway – Wombat to Cootamundra	Open
Olympic Highway – Young to Cowra	Open
Rosewood Lane (Monteagle)	Closed
Stoney Creek (Milvale Road)	Water over road
Tubbul Road between Birchs Lane and Weedallion Road	Water over road

### Harden area road closures

Barwang Road	Open
Beggan Beggan Road	Open
Berramangra Road Bridges	Open
Bonnington Road	Closed
Brennans Lane Closed	Closed
Bundarbo Bridge	Closed
Burley Griffin Way	Water over road
Carrs Crossing on Coppabella Road	Open
Colorado Road	Water over road
Currawong Road	Open

Douglas Gap Road	Open
Fairview Road Causeway	Closed
Heartfield Road	Closed
Huntleigh Road	Closed at the causeway
Jugiong Road – from Beggan Beggan intersection to Cullinga Mines Road	Open
Linden Road Causeway (Stud Brook)	Closed
McMahons Reef Road Bridges	Closed
Nanangroe Road	Closed
Nimby Road	Open
Tiverton Road	Open
Wombat Creek	Closed
Wombat Road – between Wombat and Harden	Open



<https://www.cowracouncil.com.au/News/Latest-News-and-Media-Releases/Road-Closures-in-Cowra-Shire>

# Road Closures in Cowra Shire

**UPDATED - 4 November 2022 - 4PM**

**Never drive, ride or walk through floodwater.**

**CLOSED DUE TO FLOODING**

- Lachlan Valley Way/Forbes Rd to Gooloogong
- North Logan Road, Cowra
- Brook Lane, Cowra
- Campbell St, Cowra
- Darbys Falls Road at Lachlan River
- Low Level Bridge, Cowra
- Davidsons Bridge, Merriganowry
- Conimbla Rd, Cowra
- Noonbinna East Rd, Noonbinna
- Milburn Creek Rd and Oliver Lane



**Local Road Conditions - report as at 4.00pm on 05/11/2022.**

<https://www.forbes.nsw.gov.au/residents/emergency-information/road-closures>

<b>MAIN ROADS AFFECTED</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>WATER DEPTH</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
NEWELL HIGHWAY (SH17)	Forbes to West Wyalong		CLOSED	CLOSED between Forbes and Marsden
Escort Way - Eugowra Road	Forbes to Orange		CLOSED	CLOSED between Forbes and Eugowra.
Henry Lawson Way - Forbes to Grenfell			CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC.
Henry Parkes Way - Parkes to Condobolin			CLOSED	CLOSED to light vehicles west of Yarrabandai.
Lachlan Valley Way - South Condobolin Road	17 Mile Reserve onwards CLOSED  21 Mile Reserve (34kms West of Newell Hwy)		CLOSED  CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC  CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC
Lachlan Valley Way - Cowra Road	Forbes to Cowra		CLOSED	CLOSED between Forbes and Cowra.

<b>MAIN ROADS AFFECTED</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>WATER DEPTH</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>LOCAL ROADS AFFECTED</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>WATER DEPTH</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Alchins Road	Entire Length		CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC
Bedgerabong Road			CLOSED	CLOSED between Forbes and Bedgerebong. CLOSED between Bedgerebong and Yarrabandai Road.
Bundaburra h Crossing	Show Street/Farne ll St		CLOSED	CLOSED
Bogoin Lane			CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC
Edols Road			CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC
Forest Road			CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC
Littles Road			CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC
Lows Road	Newell Highway to West Plains Road		CLOSED	LOCAL TRAFFIC ACCESS ONLY
New Grenfell Road			CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC
Noakes Road			CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC



MAIN ROADS AFFECTED	AREA	WATER DEPTH	STATUS	COMMENTS
Payten's Bridge Road	Closed on Eugowra Side (Cabonne Shire)		CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC
Pinnacle Road	Water over road in 3 sections		CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC
Tamworth Lane			CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC
Tuners Road			CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC
Wambat Street	@ Johnny Woods' Crossing		CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC
Wandary Lane			CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC
Warroo Road	Between South Condobolin Road & Driftway Road From Lows Road to Corinella Road		CLOSED  CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC  LOCAL TRAFFIC ACCESS ONLY
Wirrinya Road			CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC at Dog and Duck Floodway
Woolshed Road			CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC
Wongajong Road			CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC

MAIN ROADS AFFECTED	AREA	WATER DEPTH	STATUS	COMMENTS
Yarrabandai Road			CLOSED	CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC



## Road closures due to floodwaters

Last reviewed: 4 NOV 2022 at 3:00pm

<https://wagga.nsw.gov.au/services/emergencies/floods/flooding-events>

ROADS	STATUS	DATE UPDATED	TIME UPDATED
<p>Old Narrandera Road at Euberta is closed with water over the road.</p> <p>To detour:</p> <p>From Wagga follow Old Narrandera Road, turn right onto Mack Road, left into Bertrams Road, left into Tooyal Road and then onto Old Narrandera Road.</p> <p>From Narrandera follow Old Narrandera Road, turn left onto Tooyal Road, right into Bertrams Road, right into Macks Road and then onto Old Narrandera Road.</p>	Closed at Euberta	4/11/2022	3:00pm
Sturt Highway in East Wagga is closed in both directions. See <a href="http://www.livetraffic.com">www.livetraffic.com</a> for details.	Closed in both directions	4/11/2022	5:30am
NOTE: EQUEx has been closed due to flooding on its access road and all sports cancelled.	Closed	3/11/2022	6:00pm
Koorungal Road between Hammond Avenue (Sturt Highway) and Copland Street, including access to Little Hammond Lane and Forge Street (Traffic can still access Koorungal Road via Copland Street coming from Lake Albert Road)	Closed	3/11/2022	6:00pm

<b>ROADS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>DATE UPDATED</b>	<b>TIME UPDATED</b>
Copland Street between Koorinal Road and Lockyer Street	Closed	3/11/2022	6:00pm
Oura Road is closed. Access to Wagga from Oura only via Wantabadery to Junee to Olympic Highway	Closed	3/11/2022	6:00pm
Hampden Avenue access to North Wagga via the Wiradjuri Bridge is open to local traffic only. Traffic control is in place.	Closed	3/11/2022	6:00pm
Hovell Street in East Wagga	Closed	3/11/2022	9:25pm
Marah Street, North Wagga	Closed	3/11/2022	6:00pm
Lockhart Road	Closed	3/11/2022	6:00pm
Gumly Road, Gumly Gumly	Closed	3/11/2022	6:00pm
Pulletop Road	Closed	3/11/2022	6:00pm
Mill Street and East Street intersection at North Wagga	Closed	2/11/2022	3:00pm
Borambola North Road, Borambola	Closed	2/11/2022	9.30am
Toonga Settlement Road, Tarcutta (open to local traffic only)	Closed	2/11/2022	9.30am
Brooklyn Lane, Kyeamba	Closed	2/11/2022	9.30am
Palmers Road, Kyeamba	Closed	2/11/2022	9.30am
Windamarra Road, Borambola	Closed	2/11/2022	9.30am
Killicks Road, Kyeamba	Closed	2/11/2022	9.30am
Humula Bridge at Carabost (Signage up, but drive with caution)	Open	1/11/2022	4:30pm
Gregadoo Road (closed to through traffic between Angela Road and Main Street)	Closed	31/10/2022	10:30pm
Boiling Down Road (closed between Plumpton Road and Ashfords Road)	Closed	1/11/2022	2:30pm
Old Narrandera Road between Derrain Road and Deepwater Road, Matong	Closed	31/10/2022	3.30pm
Copland Street from Lawson Street to Hartog Street – traffic diverted at Say Street	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Roach Road	Closed	2/11/2022	11:30am
Boorooma Street between Olympic Highway and Gardiner Street	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Eunony Bridge Road	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Mundowy Lane	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Weir Road	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am

<b>ROADS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>DATE UPDATED</b>	<b>TIME UPDATED</b>
River Road	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Ganmurra Road	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Central Island Road	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Pipers Reserve Road	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Edward Street West	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
McNickle Road	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
O'Shea's Road	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Kneebones Road	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Oura Beach Road	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Deaner's Lane	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Miller's Lane	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Flowerdale Road	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Wiradjuri Reserve Road	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
The Island Lane, opposite Wilks Park on Hampden Avenue	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Kohlhagens Road	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Wagga Beach Riverside precinct and carpark	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Coolamon Road - Marrar Road intersection and near Coolamon/Wagga Wagga boundary	Open	1/11/2022	11:30am
Fletchers Lane	Open	1/11/2022	11:30am
Read and Deane St Uranquinty	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Lockhart Road	One lane closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Windmill Lane	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Lockhart Road - near Lashbrook's Road - 6km from Sturt Highway	Open	1/11/2022	11:30am
Gorman's Road	Closed	1/11/2022	11:30am
Holbrook Road (between Mangoplah and Holbrook)	Open	1/11/2022	11:30am