

# M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace

Project update

December 2025



Masonite Road overbridge open to traffic

The Australian and NSW Governments are investing in the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace project to ease congestion, improve traffic flow and reduce traffic volumes on the surrounding road network.

The M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace team achieved a number of major milestones in 2025 and is now over 70% complete.

Over the past three months, we've opened two new bridges to live traffic, completed major bridge structures and continued pavement works across the 15-kilometre extension.

This update highlights our recent achievements and outlines what's coming next as we move closer to delivering this vital infrastructure for the Hunter region.

## Construction progress

To stay updated including monthly construction updates with photos and drone footage, please visit our construction progress webpage:



**Visit the project webpage**





## Progress update



### Southern Section (Black Hill to Tomago – 10 km)

Key progress includes:

- major traffic change on the Pacific Highway at Tomago, with northbound traffic now travelling on the new overbridge above the motorway alignment
- approximately 60% of concrete decks poured on the 2.6-kilometre viaduct
- installation of all nine pile cap shells on river piles
- girder placement for a second new bridge at Tarro interchange
- placement of final pavement layers between Black Hill and Tarro
- foundation treatments and embankment construction in the northern fill areas (between Tomago and Heatherbrae)
- relocation of electrical and other utility services
- topsoil placement, tree planting and other landscaping treatments



Topsoil placement, tree planting and other landscaping treatments are being undertaken

- ongoing installation of permanent water quality treatment devices including basins and bioswales (sloped channels that collect stormwater from road surfaces)
- installation of street lighting, barriers and guardrails.

### Northern Section (Heatherbrae Bypass – 5 km)

Key progress includes:

- completion of traffic switches for the Northern interchange in October, with the northbound carriageway of the Pacific Highway at Raymond Terrace now in its final configuration ahead of the Motorway opening
- completion of the Masonite Road traffic switch in October, with all traffic now travelling on the new overbridge above the motorway alignment
- completion of the 170-metre bridge over Windeyers Creek, marking the final of three bridges on the Heatherbrae Bypass
- asphaltting now more than halfway complete
- drainage installation reaching over 90% completion
- topsoil placement, tree planting and landscaping other works.



2.6-kilometre viaduct progressing towards Hunter River



## Upcoming out of hours work

We will schedule construction activities during the day whenever possible. However, it may be necessary to work outside standard construction hours to ensure the safety of road users and workers and to minimise disruptions during peak travel times.

Work planned to be carried out outside of standard construction hours over the next three months include:

- construction of roadside signage, guardrail and barrier installation
- utility relocations including electrical and communications
- construction of temporary and permanent traffic arrangements and traffic switches
- roadside maintenance and landscaping
- clearing or trimming of trees adjacent to roads
- earthworks including delivering, hauling and placement of material
- construction of drainage and operational water quality structures
- oversized deliveries for bridge construction and heavy equipment
- bridge work including concrete pouring and installation of barriers, safety screens and girders
- use of site compounds for deliveries and stockpiling
- asphaltting including removal and placement of material and line marking.



Raymond Terrace interchange following the northbound entry ramp traffic switch in October 2025



For more details on our planned out of hours activities December 2025 – February 2026, please visit [nswroads.work/m12rtportal](https://nswroads.work/m12rtportal)

## Foundations finished for M1 extension bridges



The final pile has been driven to complete deep foundation works for 11 new bridges from Black Hill to Raymond Terrace.

Since February 2024, the project team has installed 278 bridge piles across the 15-kilometre extension. This includes 173 piles for the 2.6-kilometre viaduct spanning the Hunter River and surrounding flood plains. The deepest pile reached a depth of 66 metres, driven through soft soils to the ancient riverbed beneath the current floodplain.

In the river, crews installed 16 piles using heavy lift barges. Construction is now progressing with pile caps, columns, girders, and bridge decks.

Drivers are already using new bridges at the Black Hill, Tomago and Raymond Terrace interchanges, as well as at Masonite Road.



2.6-kilometre viaduct progressing over Hunter River facing Tarro



# All three bridges completed on the Heatherbrae Bypass



The project team completed final works on the Windeyers Creek bridge in November, installing a waterproof membrane on the deck to prepare for asphaltting. This follows the project’s two overbridges at Masonite Road and the Raymond Terrace interchange that have already been opened to traffic. Our project team has worked hard to deliver these bridges, which are key to safer travel and better traffic flow. The Windeyers Creek bridge spans approximately 170 metres, while the two overbridges help vehicles move more smoothly through busy interchanges.



Water quality basin construction at the Raymond Terrace interchange



Windeyers Creek bridge preparation for asphaltting

# STEM Day ignites students’ passion for innovation and engineering



From designing bridges to building bee boxes, local students got a taste of the fascinating world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at the latest open day for the M1 extension to Raymond Terrace project.

More than 50 students from Maitland Grossmann, Hunter River High School and Catherine McAuley College joined educators and industry professionals to explore how STEM shapes infrastructure and communities.

The full-day program showcased real-world applications of STEM through activities such as surveying, materials testing, road design, bridge building, environmental assessment and safety challenges. Each activity reflected current infrastructure practices and was delivered by experts from contractors John Holland Gamuda Australia Joint Venture and Seymour Whyte Constructions.

The open day was part of the project’s STEM Education program, developed in collaboration with the Department of Education to engage young people in meaningful, career-focused experiences.



Students observing concrete paving operations

# Spring provided a bumper orchid season in Heatherbrae

Spring has now passed and as we move into summer, our environment team working on the Heatherbrae Bypass celebrated a thriving orchid season. About half of the northern section runs through the Tomago Sandbeds. The open forest on coastal sands within the project corridor has created ideal conditions for terrestrial orchids to flourish.

Throughout spring we spotted several orchids blooming in the area including the *Caleana major* (Flying Duck Orchid), *Calochilus paludosus* (Red Beard Orchid), *Diuris sulphurea* (Tiger Orchid) and the endangered *Diuris arenaria* (Sand Doubletail).

This spring marked the third year of monitoring the threatened *Diuris arenaria*. The results were again positive, showing the benefits of our team’s commitment to protecting known populations.

Seymour Whyte Senior Environment Advisor Emmalee Jesser has been central to the flora monitoring program. Over three seasons, Emmalee has worked closely with the project ecologist to survey orchid populations.

“It’s been rewarding to see how *Diuris arenaria* has responded to different stages of construction and the higher-than-average rainfall leading up to spring”,

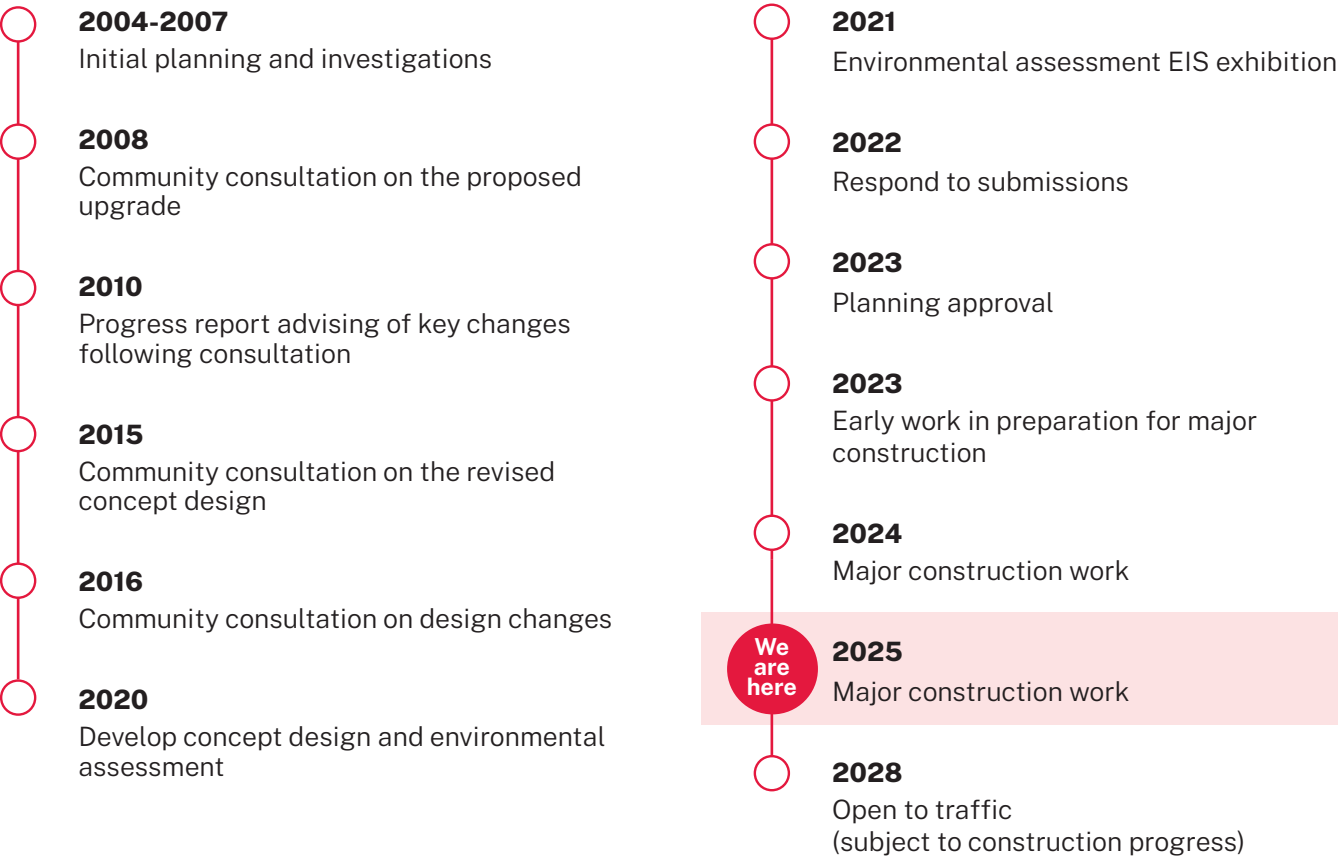
“We still have a lot to learn about this elusive orchid, but it’s encouraging to see stem counts continue to grow. We’ve also enjoyed sharing our findings with the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens.”

Emmalee said.





























Flying Duck Orchid and Tiger Orchid

## Project timeframe





December 2025 project scorecard (October – December)

Design	Key people data	Community engagement data
 100% design complete	 3,710,491 work hours	 2,776 emails in/out
Key construction data	 71% local employment	 1,732 calls / SMS in/out
 98% of 720,000 tonnes of rock imported	 9% female workers	 182 meetings held
 11/11 bridges under construction	 7% Indigenous	 203,894 web visitors
 271/278 bridge piles installed	 16% workers in training	 119 complaints (closed)
 664/863 super-T bridge girders in place	 14% under 25	Sustainability data
 89% of 1.613 million m³ earth moved	 67 apprentices	 435 artificial hollows and nest boxes for fauna installed
 80% of 20.5km total drainage pipes laid	 30 trainees	 826 logs and root balls saved for environmental rehabilitation
 100% of 500km total wick drains installed	 25 Aboriginal businesses engaged	 96% construction waste diverted from landfill
 49% of 190,000 tonnes asphalt laid		

Festive season and holiday shutdown

We will break to spend time with our friends and families during the festive season. No work is scheduled between **Saturday 20 December 2025** and **Sunday 4 January 2026**. For the latest traffic updates and to help plan your journey ahead during the festive period, call **132 701**, visit [livetraffic.com](https://www.livetraffic.com) or download the **Live Traffic NSW app**.  
**Have a safe and happy holiday season**



Looking ahead to the new year

Early 2026 will bring continued progress across the project. In January, drainage work on the Heatherbrae Bypass is set to finish, and new electronic message signs will be installed along the Pacific Highway at Raymond Terrace to help keep drivers informed. February will see two big milestones: crews plan to lay the final section of pavement on the Heatherbrae Bypass and install the last girders on the viaduct – ending major structural work. We thank the community for their patience and support throughout the journey. The new motorway will deliver safer, smoother travel for everyone.



Contact us



24-hour Project Infoline **1800 094 895**



**m12rt@transport.nsw.gov.au**



**nswroads.work/m12rt**



**Customer feedback**

Locked Bag 2030, Newcastle, NSW 2300



Visit the project webpage at **nswroads.work/m12rt**



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