



M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace upgrade

Project Update

June 2025



Australian Government

BUILDING AUSTRALIA



Girder installation at Windeyers Creek bridge

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 continues to progress steadily, with work advancing across the full 15-kilometre alignment. As we reach the mid-year mark, key milestones include the completion of major bridge structures, the opening of the first interchange to live traffic, and ongoing pavement and utility works. This update highlights recent achievements and outlines the next steps as we move closer to delivering this vital infrastructure for the Hunter region.



Transport for NSW acknowledges the Wonnarua, Worimi and Awabakal people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace project is being built and pay our respect to Elders past and present.

Progress update

Southern Section (Black Hill to Tomago – 10 km)

Key progress includes:

- completion of piling in the Hunter River
- installation of the first pile caps on river piles
- approximately 40% of girders placed and 25% of deck poured on the 2.6-kilometre viaduct
- girders placed and deck poured on one of the two bridges at Tarro Interchange
- bridges at Black Hill and Tomago Interchanges nearing completion
- deck poured on the bridge near Old Punt Road at Tomago
- communications, water, and gas relocations complete; electrical relocations due for completion in July
- pavement layers being placed between Black Hill and Tarro
- progressive top-soiling and landscaping
- asphalt works underway, including repairs on the existing highway and new permanent pavements.

Northern Section (Heatherbrae Bypass – 5 km)

Key progress includes:

- completion and opening of the southbound off-ramp at Raymond Terrace Interchange
- Start of northbound carriageway widening on the Pacific Highway at Raymond Terrace
- completion of girder installation at Windeyers Creek Bridge
- asphaltting and kerb installation at Heatherbrae
- completion of concrete deck pours at Masonite Road overpass
- power pole relocations, including outages at Masonite Road and Camfield Drive
- completion of transverse drainage and three concrete-lined basins.

Construction progress

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



Visit the project webpage at nswroads.work/m12rtconstructionprogress



Viaduct construction progress at Tarro

Upcoming out of hours work

Whenever possible, we will schedule construction activities during the day. 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 of trees adjacent to roads
- earthworks including delivering, hauling and placement of material
- construction of drainage and operational water quality basins
- 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.

For more details on our planned out of hours activities between **July and September 2025**, please visit nswroads.work/m12rtportal



Have your say in how we communicate with you

We are continuously striving to enhance our communication with the community. We invite you to take part in a short survey to provide feedback on what you would like to hear more about, what we are doing well and what could be improved.

These surveys are undertaken throughout construction to inform the way we engage with the community. Your valuable feedback helps us to improve our interactions and provide information you might find helpful.

The survey can be found on our portal at nswroads.work/m12rtportal or by scanning the QR code below. You can also provide feedback via the project information line, email or post. See the contact details on the back of this update.



Raymond Terrace interchange ramp opens to traffic

April marked a major step forward for the M1 extension project, with the successful opening to traffic of the Raymond Terrace Interchange southbound off-ramp.

This marked the first of the four interchanges to feature a bridge carrying live traffic, an important milestone in the overall program and a significant achievement for the project team. Delivered in two stages by our northern contractor, Seymour Whyte Constructions, the ramp forms a key part of the project's broader staged traffic management strategy. Its opening enabled the safe and successful diversion of traffic from the northbound carriageway of the Pacific Highway at Heatherbrae, allowing the construction team to



maintain momentum towards the project's completion.

For motorists, the opening of this ramp is a key step towards improving how traffic will move through the area in the future. It lays the groundwork for better journeys and safer connections as more parts of the project come online.

Widening of the northbound carriageway commenced following the opening of the Raymond Terrace Interchange southbound off-ramp

A career change to construction? It's possible!

In May, mid-career women were invited to consider taking the leap into construction with a visit to the M1 extension project. The initiative was part of the Australian Constructors Association's (ACA) 'It's Possible' campaign, supported by NSW Government's Women in Construction Industry Innovation Program which aims to showcase construction careers to women.

Female project staff from the M1 extension team shared their personal journeys and experiences working on the 10-kilometre stretch from Black Hill to Tomago. This section includes a 2.6-kilometre viaduct over the Hunter River and surrounding floodplain, seven additional bridges, and three interchanges. To date, more than 200 women have worked on the project in a wide range of roles - from labour and engineering to safety, environment, and design - demonstrating that a fulfilling career in construction is not only possible but thriving.



Mid-career women visit the M12RT project as part of the ACA's 'It's Possible' campaign, hearing firsthand from the women helping deliver this major motorway extension

M1 Project in the spotlight at Newcastle Careers Expo

The M1 extension team recently swapped their hard hats for a day at Newcastle Racecourse – but instead of watching the horses, they were there to inspire the next generation. On Thursday 15 May 2025, team members proudly supported Career Links at the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Careers Expo. The event was a bustling hub of activity, welcoming over 4,300 students from 42 high schools across the region.

Team members were on hand to share insights about the M1 extension project and the wide range of career pathways available in the construction industry. Career Links plays a vital role in connecting schools with employers and training providers across the Hunter. Attending the expo is part of the M1 extension's broader school engagement program, which aims to raise awareness of local career opportunities and connect students with real pathways into the infrastructure sector.



The M12RT team engaged with over 4,300 students, sharing insights into the project and potential career pathways

Piling complete and first pile caps installed for new viaduct over Hunter River

The new viaduct over the Hunter River is progressing well with piling now complete and the first three pile caps installed. Two massive 100-tonne precast concrete pile cap shells were placed onto completed river piles using 450-tonne and 400-tonne cranes. These pile cap shells have been progressively fabricated onsite since mid-2024. Pile caps play a crucial role in bridge construction, distributing the load from the bridge superstructure to the supporting piles.

Pile caps are typically cast in position on site using temporary formwork. However, the use of pre-cast pile cap shells, that will be filled with concrete and form part of the permanent structure of the viaduct, negates the need for temporary formwork and improves worker

safety and efficiency. A total of nine pile caps will be installed on the over-water section of the viaduct and are expected to be complete by October. The next steps in construction will involve filling the pile caps, forming and casting the columns and headstocks and then positioning the bridge girders.



A 100-tonne pile cap shell lands on river piles with giant cranes

May 2025 weather event – managing flood impacts

The M1 extension team acknowledges concerns raised regarding flooding impacts and the temporary rock platform currently in place across the Hunter River.

The rock platform, approximately 80 metres long, is a temporary structure being used to support construction of the 2.6-kilometre viaduct over the Hunter River and surrounding floodplain. It provides access for equipment and materials during this complex phase of the project.

In response to the recent severe weather and flooding across the Hunter region, the project team took proactive steps to protect the site and surrounding environment. This included relocating construction materials, plant, and equipment to higher ground where practical, closely monitoring weather and river conditions, and prioritising the safety of workers and the community. Most work safely resumed on site from Monday, 26 May 2025.

Transport for NSW would like to reassure the community that the rock platform performed as designed - allowing water to flow over it during high tides and flood events, in line with its temporary construction purpose.

We understand this has been a challenging time for many in the community, and we remain committed to working collaboratively with stakeholders to address concerns and ensure the project progresses safely, responsibly, and with minimal disruption.

Working together to support women and families in the Hunter

The M1 extension team continues to show that building infrastructure goes hand-in-hand with building stronger communities. Over recent months, project team members have stepped up to support local women and families affected by domestic and family violence through hands-on volunteering and community fundraising.

Volunteers from Seymour Whyte partnered with Habitat for Humanity to refurbish crisis accommodation run by Nova for Women and Children. The team painted and repaired bedrooms and shared spaces at a transitional shelter in the Hunter Region. Volunteers described the day as deeply meaningful, highlighting the opportunity to offer practical support to those rebuilding their lives.



Seymour Whyte volunteers teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to refresh crisis accommodation for women and children escaping domestic violence.

Adding to these efforts, John Holland Gamuda Joint Venture's Sustainability graduate Ben Wheatcroft raised over \$7,600 by paddling 20 kilometres from Stockton Beach to work along the Hunter River.

Joined by fellow team member Kevin "Big Kev" Frier, the paddle was a warm-up for Ben's upcoming trek through the Larapinta Trail as part of Jenny's Place Champions for Change initiative, another key organisation supporting women and children in crisis.

Whether picking up a paintbrush or a paddle, our project team is committed to making a positive difference and supporting safer, more inclusive communities across the Hunter.



With a paddle and a purpose, Ben made his way to work from Stockton Beach raising funds for Jenny's Place

Building Clean Water Solutions: Year 6 students tackle environmental challenges in road construction

Future engineers explored environmental management in construction during the latest M1 extension STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) session at Raymond Terrace Public School. Joined by Seymour Whyte Constructions and Transport for NSW, students learned how engineers protect waterways using sediment fences, drainage layers, and rock filters. The hands-on Clean Water Challenge saw students design and build their own filtration systems using sand, gravel, and cotton before testing them with a professional water monitoring tool.

"The workshop brought real-world STEM to life and showed students how careers in civil construction make a difference," said Mick Lee, NSW Department of Education.

These experiences are part of our broader school engagement program, designed to inspire future leaders in construction and sustainability — helping build lasting connections between infrastructure projects and the communities they support.



Hands-on learning: Project representatives guide students through real-world environmental management solutions in construction.

Project timeframe



June project scorecard (April - June)

Design	Key people data	Community engagement data
100% design complete	2,554,991 hours	2,485 emails in/out
Key construction data	72% local employment	1,579 calls / SMS in/out
92% of 720,000 tonnes of rock imported	8% female workers	173 meetings held
10/11 bridges under construction	6% Indigenous	182,030 web visitors
247/278 bridge piles installed	21% workers in training	86 complaints (closed)
422/863 super-T bridge girders in place	14% under 25	Sustainability data
73% of 1.613 million m ³ earth moved	44 apprentices	51% office waste diverted from landfill
50% of 20.5km total drainage pipes laid	19 trainees	424 artificial hollows and nest boxes for fauna installed
65% of 5000km total wick drains installed	12 Aboriginal businesses engaged	826 logs and root balls saved for environmental rehabilitation
15% of 190,000 tonnes asphalt laid		96% construction waste diverted from landfill

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**



Interpreter service

For languages other than English please call 131 450

www.transport.nsw.gov.au/privacy-statement#Your_Privacy