

Towamba and Burragate Road Upgrade

Monthly Communications Update



January 2022

The persistent wet weather during December and January prevented the prime sealing of the remaining unsealed sections and defect areas as planned. The defect areas were prime sealed in late January. All remaining sealing works, including two additional coats of seal to all upgraded sections of Towamba and Burragate Roads, will be completed from mid February to early March 2022.

On completion of the sealing works the remaining guardrail, guideposts and signage will be installed, to complete the upgrade works. A 12 month defect liability period will then commence.

Residents and road users are reminded of the need for caution, and to observe speed restrictions, when travelling through the construction zones, unsealed sections and newly sealed sections, where loose materials may present windscreen and traction risks.

November 2021

The archaeological field work required under the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the exclusion zones was completed in late October. As a result, the construction contractor, Symal Infrastructure, remobilised in early November to undertake the upgrade works in the exclusion zones. Earthworks and subgrade preparation has been completed, and pavement construction is well underway. The first coat of seal will be applied in these sections, as will repair of damage to newly sealed areas, in mid December.

Two additional coats of seal will be applied to all upgraded sections of Towamba and Burragate Roads in the New Year.

Residents and road users are reminded of the need for caution, and to observe speed restrictions, when travelling through the construction zones, unsealed sections and newly sealed sections, where loose materials may present windscreen and traction risks.

October 2021

The conditions of the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the exclusion zones included the requirement for the survey, collection, analysis and recording of artefacts, including some archaeological excavations, prior to the upgrade works proceeding. This archaeological field work was undertaken in mid / late October.

The construction contractor, Symal Infrastructure, will remobilise in November to undertake the upgrade works in the exclusion zones. The prime seal of the exclusion zones and two-coat seal of the new works from Towamba to Burragate to Mount Darragh Road will occur in early December. The two-coat seal of the new works from Towamba to Nullica, and the exclusion zones, will occur in January / February 2022.

Residents and road users are reminded of the need for caution, and to observe speed restrictions, when travelling through the construction zones, unsealed sections and newly sealed sections, where loose materials may present windscreen and traction risks.

September 2021

With completion of the final guardrail and guidepost installation, the road upgrade works and prime seal is now complete in all unsealed sections of Towamba and Burragate Roads, less the aboriginal artefact exclusion zones.

The Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the exclusion zones has now been issued. The conditions of the AHIP require the survey, collection, analysis and recording of these artefacts, including some archaeological excavations, prior to the upgrade works proceeding. This archaeological field work will be undertaken in mid October.

The construction contractor, Symal Infrastructure, will then remobilise in late October to undertake the upgrade works in the exclusion zones. The prime seal of the exclusion zones and two-coat seal of the new works from Towamba to Burragate to Mount Darragh Road will occur in late November / early December. The two-coat seal of the new works from Towamba to Nullica, and the exclusion zones, will occur in January 2022.

Residents and road users are reminded of the need for caution, and to observe speed restrictions, when travelling through the construction zones, unsealed sections and newly sealed sections, where loose materials may present windscreen and traction risks.

July 2021

Upgrade works on the final unsealed section of Towamba Road, between The Snake Track and Ben Boyd Road, progressed well this month, which saw pavement construction and the prime seal completed. Guardrail installation also commenced this month, with two teams making excellent progress. The weather this month has also been very favourable, which is a nice change!

Road users will have noted that there are a number of sections of road that have not been upgraded and sealed. This is due to the presence of indigenous artefacts. These needed to be investigated, in consultation with the Local Aboriginal Land Council, and an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) obtained prior to the work in these sections continuing. The AHIP application has been lodged and once approved these sections will also be upgraded. Emergency maintenance work in these indigenous artefact exclusion zones, due to damage from the weather events, was approved in the interim, and have been undertaken in the most impacted sections.

Residents and road users are reminded of the need for caution, and to observe speed restrictions, when travelling through the construction zones, unsealed sections and newly sealed sections, where loose materials may present windscreen and traction risks.

June 2021

Repair of the additional land slips and slope stability issues in the mountainous section between Towamba and the Princes Highway, under Disaster Recovery Funding, have been substantially completed in the past month. The road upgrade works have therefore been able to progress with road pavement construction in the remaining unsealed section between Ben Boyd Road and The Snake Track progressing well. This will be completed in the coming weeks, with the prime seal planned by late July. Guardrail installation will also commence in early July.

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Emergency maintenance work in these indigenous artefact exclusion zones, due to damage from the recent weather events, was approved in the interim, and has been undertaken in the most impacted sections.

Residents and road users are reminded of the need for caution, and to observe speed restrictions, when travelling through the construction zones, unsealed sections and newly sealed sections, where loose materials may present windscreen and traction risks.

May 2021

The cumulative effect of the major weather events over the past two months have impacted the project both directly and indirectly. Direct impacts have mainly been damage to roadside drainage and batters, which the contractor is in the process of remediating. The newly sealed sections of road, however, have held up well to the rains and the traffic. Indirect impacts have been additional land slips and slope stability issues in the mountainous section between Towamba and the Princes Highway. These repair works, to be funded under Disaster Recovery Funding, have been included in the contractor's scope of works, given they have occurred within the area the contractor is currently working. The road upgrade works will continue once these impacted sections are repaired. A further 5km of road was prime sealed, during the past month.

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Residents and road users are reminded of the need for caution, and to observe speed restrictions, when travelling through the construction zones, and on newly sealed sections, where loose materials may present windscreen and traction risks.

April 2021

Despite the weather impacts of last month, work continues to progress well. In addition to remediation works as a result of the flooding rains, the major unsealed section of road between Towamba and Burragate was stabilised and prime sealed during the past month. Work in the first unsealed section between the Princes Highway and Towamba is also progressing well with the road pavement construction almost complete, and prime sealing planned to commence in early May.

Guideposts, signage and guardrails will be installed progressively in these sealed sections over the coming months.

The weather event, however, did cause a number of additional slippages on the road between Towamba and the Princes Highway. The project team are working with the disaster recovery taskforce to have these rectification works rolled into the existing road upgrade contract so that both projects can progress concurrently.

Residents and road users are reminded of the need for caution, and to observe speed restrictions, when travelling through the construction zones, and on newly sealed sections, where loose materials may present windscreen and traction risks.

March 2021

The recent weather events have impacted progress with some re-work and remediation works required, mainly to batters and drainage infrastructure. That said, the newly sealed sections between Towamba and Burragate held up well. The remaining unsealed section between Towamba and Burragate, while delayed, is planned to be stabilised and sealed (first coat) after Easter.

Works have also commenced in the unsealed sections between Towamba and the Princes Highway. The mountainous sections present some challenges and will necessitate road closures on occasions. These will be minimised, where possible, and advance notification will be provided.

Residents and road users are reminded of the need for caution, and to observe speed restrictions, when travelling through the construction zones, and on newly sealed sections, where loose materials may present windscreen and traction risks.

February 2021

Upgrade works on Burragate and Towamba Roads reached a significant milestone this past month with the three of the six unsealed sections receiving their first coat of seal. The focus of work during March will be on the road sections between Towamba and Burragate, before commencing work south of Towamba. The newly sealed sections will receive two more coats of seal, as well as some guardrails, signage and remediation work in coming months.

Residents and road users are reminded of the need for caution, and to observe speed restrictions, when travelling through the construction zones, and on newly sealed sections, where loose materials may present windscreen and traction risks.



December 2020 and January 2021

Upgrade works on Burragate and Towamba Roads is now well underway. The contractor, Symal Infrastructure, mobilised in early December 2020 and commenced construction works on Burragate Road with survey, environmental controls, tree clearance, road widening, and drainage works all undertaken before the end of year stand-down. Works recommenced in early January 2021, progressing onto the unsealed sections of Towamba Road, between Burragate and Towamba. Weather permitting, earthworks and pavement stabilisation of these sections will be completed in February, followed by the first sealing coat.

Residents and road users are reminded of the need for caution, and to observe speed restrictions, when travelling through the construction zones, and on newly sealed sections, where loose materials may present windscreen and traction risks.



November 2020

Post Tender negotiations between Council and Symal Infrastructure were successful with the construction contract awarded on 18 November 2020. Contract preliminaries and construction approvals are now underway, with a site presence by Symal expected on Burragate Road in early December 2020.

Media Release - Contract awarded for Towamba and Burragate roads

18 November 2020

The much-anticipated upgrade to the Towamba and Burragate roads has taken a major step forward with [Symal Infrastructure](#) being awarded the construction contract for this significant project.

Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, said those in the Towamba, Burragate and surrounding communities will benefit from improved safety, driveability and fully sealed access to the larger commercial hubs of Pambula, Eden, Bombala and further afield.

“With 121 properties along the route at last count, as well as other people using the roads on a daily basis, it will be fantastic to see the huge benefits this project will bring,” Cr Fitzpatrick said.

“Work is set to commence prior to Christmas, with environmental controls and vegetation management to kick off from early next month.

“Importantly, the project will be undertaken in stages to minimise the disruption to residents throughout the construction period. We’ll also ensure we keep impacted residents and the community up to date throughout the project.”

Member for Bega, Andrew Constance, said the road sealing project would be life changing for Towamba and Burragate residents.

“No longer will cars be subjected to damage from rough roads, and residents’ fears about emergency services or allied health services not being able to access them in adverse conditions will be alleviated,” Mr Constance said.

“Once complete, the sealed roads will also improve connections between key freight and industry hubs such as silos, logging operations, industrial parks and depots, not only in Towamba and Burragate, but throughout the entire south east region of NSW.

“The project will improve connectivity between local and regional roads to state highways, including the Princes Highway, reducing travel times, improving safety and lowering costs for local businesses.

“I made a commitment to the local residents to see this work undertaken and given the year we have had, there is no better time than now to get on and deliver this project,” Mr Constance said.

The project includes sealing, pavement upgrade, new guardrails, signage and drainage along 22.4 kilometres of road.

It is set to be completed in late 2021 and is being funded through a \$10 million grant from the NSW Government.

For more information on the Towamba and Burragate roads upgrade, visit the [project page on Council's website](#).

October 2020

The construction Tender for the Towamba and Burragate Road Upgrade Project closed on 7 October 2020 with three submissions received. At the Council Meeting on 28 October 2020, Council resolved to reject all tenders and enter into post tender negotiations with the preferred tenderer. It is anticipated contractor engagement will occur in mid-November.

September 2020

The construction Tender for the Towamba and Burragate Road Upgrade Project was released to market on 14 September 2020, following completion of the final designs. A Tender site briefing was held on 23 September at Towamba, with a good number of Contractors in attendance. The Tender period will close in early October and following evaluation of submissions, a report to award the contract will be present to the Council Meeting on 28 October 2020 for resolution. The successful Contractor will begin to have a site presence around mid-November 2020.

August 2020

The detailed design has now been completed and submitted to Council for review. Concurrently, Council's Project Managers are finalising the specification and tender documentation for the Towamba and Burragate Road Upgrade Project and will proceed to Public Tender in September 2020, for Council resolution and award at the Council Meeting of 28 October 2020. Works will commence in November 2020.

July 2020

During August 2020, the detailed design, specification and tender documentation for the Towamba and Burragate Road Upgrade Project will be finalised and proceed to Public Tender in September 2020. Recommendations from the Tender will be presented for Council resolution and award at the Council Meeting of 28 October 2020. This process has taken longer than originally planned due to the challenges of balancing the upgrade scope and design, to meet the minimum design and safety standards for rural roads, against the available funding. The tender package will be for the full scope of the upgrade project, but will include separable portions and schedules of rates, in the event the tender submissions exceed the available funding. Council will seek additional State and Federal funding if a shortfall exists, once the tender process is completed. Works will commence, nevertheless, in November 2020, to the limit of available funding.

June 2020

Council and the design consultants met with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) representatives following a technical submission that outlined the current constraints to providing the ideal design with respect to budget, topography, pavement design and environmental impact. The workshop was positive with agreement on the suggested way forward and items to be value managed down in order to be able to deliver an upgraded and fully sealed road.

With the process now mapped out and agreed with TfNSW, the final iteration of design work can commence with finalisation and subsequent release of construction tender to follow in the next two months.

May 2020

Preliminary engineering design for all three sections of the Towamba and Burragate Roads upgrade project were completed in the past month, and submitted for Council review. The project cost estimate was also updated based on these preliminary designs, which allowed accurate calculation of quantities, volumes and surface areas.

As the updated cost estimate exceeded the project funding, Council and their design engineers undertook a series of value management workshops to identify options to refine the design in order to match the project budget, and still achieve the project objectives. Design refinements include adjusting pavement width to minimise earthworks and environmental impacts and optimising the pavement design. This design refinement process will be occurring, in conjunction with the project funding partner, Transport for NSW, in the coming month.

A community information briefing on the project status is proposed by the Council and consultant project teams, in accordance with COVID 19 social distancing restrictions, later in June 2020.

April 2020

GHD Pty Ltd have continued with engineering design work on the Towamba and Burragate Roads upgrade project this month, with submission of the first section of concept design to Council for review. The final geotechnical report and pavement design has also been submitted, along with a report on the inspection and condition assessment of all the culvert crossings along the route. The assessment has identified a number of culverts that are no longer serviceable and will be included in the design documentation for upgrade or replacement.

The project is currently programmed to proceed to construction tender in June 2020, with Contract award likely in August 2020

March 2020

Bega Valley Shire Council's consultants GHD have continued work on the Towamba and Burragate Roads in March. Following completion of the detailed survey, GHD have been assessing the current road geometry and existing conditions to establish the design speed environment, which has a flow on effect to the geometric design of the new road. GHD have also been progressing the pavement design to manage factors such as availability of conforming material in a remote location, as well as design life and durability.

GHD has also been progressing the bushfire recovery scope along the affected section of Towamba Road and will be submitting a finalised investigation and design options report to Council this month for review.

The project is currently programmed to proceed to tender in June 2020, with construction likely to start in August 2020.

February 2020

With the completion of site investigations and draft report submissions, the design phase of the project was commenced during February 2020. Council's consultants GHD have begun the engineering design services and will present concept plans and layouts to Council during March 2020.

Subsequent to this, GHD has also attended the bushfire-affected areas of Towamba Road alongside Council staff to assess, map and provide recommendations for the remediation of damaged assets. This includes culverts, road signs, barriers and retaining structures. GHD is providing further geotechnical advice to Council in regards to slope stability in and around some of the damaged retaining structures, particularly following the heavy rains experienced in the aftermath of the bushfire.

December 2019 & January 2020

Council's consultants GHD have been progressing the project throughout December and January with completion of the site survey, geotechnical and environmental site investigations. With approximately 50% of Towamba Road affected by bushfires, GHD have returned to site to further assess environmental conditions and impact of the fires on vegetation along the road corridor. Some structural damage was also observed in the fire-affected area, particularly damage to timber log retaining structures.

Notwithstanding impact of the bushfires, final site investigations, reporting and survey is due early February which activates the engineering design process. Users of the road are reminded that there may be further site investigations required throughout the design process. Users may notice unusual activity on the roadway during these periods. These activities will extend over the full length of the presently unsealed parts of Towamba Road and Burragate Road.

Drivers are requested to be on the lookout for stationary and moving vehicles and excavation plant working within the roadway and to pass safely at reduced speed. Traffic controllers will be deployed as required.

November 2019

Council's consultants GHD have been progressing the project, looking to have survey and investigation works commencing on site in December 2019.

The scheduled dates for these activities on site are as follows:

- Survey: 4-20 December 2019;
- Geotechnical investigations: 9-14 December 2019;
- Environmental Assessments: 17-19 December 2019.

Users of the road may notice unusual activity on the roadway during these periods. These activities will extend over the full length of the presently unsealed parts of Towamba Road and Burragate Road.

Drivers are requested to be on the lookout for stationary and moving vehicles and excavation plant working within the roadway and to pass safely at reduced speed. Traffic controllers will be deployed as required.

The engineering design for the road upgrading works will commence in early 2020, once the analysis of survey, geotechnical and environmental data have been completed. These investigation works are necessary to allow the works to be delivered efficiently within the available funds and with any environmental impacts kept to a minimum.

Council has also met with the funding body, NSW Roads and Maritime Services, confirming that the project is progressing as planned.