Great Western Highway Community Coordination Taskforce

TRANSPORT FUNCTIONAL AREA SITUATION REPORT

Event: Closure of a section of the Great Western Highway at Victoria Pass

Situation Report current as at 23 September 2026

MITCHELLS CAUSEWAY

- The project has completed 100% of micropiling required to enable access for the major piling rig, with 63% of capping beam construction also complete.
- Permanent piling work is underway, with dozens of bridge foundation piles drilled into sandstone bedrock as construction of the new bridge structure progresses.
- Design work and environmental approvals are progressing to include a climbing lane in the eastbound direction, which will be incorporated into project delivery to build the resilience of the corridor.
- The additional climbing lane was announced as part of the Australian and NSW Government funding package.
- Transport's immediate focus is to reinstate the highway as quickly and safely as possible, while making sure the structure provides long-term stability and does not limit future options.

ROADS AND TRAFFIC

- Transport responded to a number of heavy vehicle incidents on the detour route in recent weeks. Transport is undertaking an investigation into the circumstances of the incidents.
- Transport has extra field resources on the Darling Causeway including heavy and light tows, pilots operating drones, additional mobile CCTV units available to monitor incidents or breakdowns. Traffic control crews are situated along the detour route at strategic locations. Transport works closely with emergency services to respond to incidents and restore access as quickly as possible when disruptions occur.
- Transport continues to work closely with NSW Police on additional speed enforcement measures and compliance activities to improve safety on the detour route. Motorists are reminded to slow down, obey speed limits and drive to conditions.
- Compliance vehicles and mobile traffic monitoring equipment remain in place to support enforcement activities.
- Transport continues to liaise closely with Bathurst 1000 organisers and key stakeholders in preparation for the event.
- Additional resources will be deployed over upcoming peak traffic periods to help manage increased traffic volumes safely.

ROADWORK

- Asphalting work has recommenced on Scenic Hill and is expected to continue over the coming months, moving into Lithgow town centre. No asphalting is planned during the Bathurst 1000 event period or key school holiday travel periods.

- Slope repair works at Mount Tomah have been completed ahead of schedule, reducing the duration of impacts for road users.
- Transport has laid a total of 43,268 tonnes asphalt on the detour route since it has been in operation.
- Planning is underway for asphalting works between Lithgow, and the closure point in Little Hartley.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- As a result of upcoming trackwork on the Blue Mountains Line, the following changes to public transport services will be in place:
    - On Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 September (evening), buses will replace trains between Katoomba and Blacktown.
    - On Saturday 3 October, buses will replace some trains between Lithgow and Katoomba.
    - On Monday 5 October trains will run between Blue Mountains Line stations and Blacktown only.
    - On Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 October trains will run between Blue Mountains Line stations and Blacktown only.
- Customers should check Trip Planner before all travel for accurate service times.
- Customers can view full trackwork impacts and subscribe to trackwork alerts to be notified of trackwork impacting their line or station. Please go to https://transportnsw.info/travel-info/ways-to-get-around/train/about-trackwork.

FREIGHT

- Transport continues to work closely with industry to facilitate approved Oversize Over Mass (OSOM) vehicle movements that are essential to maintaining supply chains and supporting the NSW economy.
- Heavy vehicle operators are reminded that the detour route is open to general access vehicles and eligible PBS vehicles up to 20 metres, subject to approved access conditions and to check permit requirements and network access conditions before travelling.
- NHVR and NSW Police continue targeted compliance activities to support freight safety and compliance on the detour route.
- PBS level 2A vehicles, Class 2 vehicle carriers up to 21.4 metres, and eligible OSOM or special purpose vehicles require an NHVR access permit before travel.
- B-doubles over 19 metres are not approved, nor were they previously approved, on the Great Western Highway between Emu Plains and Marrangaroo or the detour route.
- Operators should check NHVR Go and Live Traffic before travel and delay trips if suitable access is unavailable.
- As of 22 September 2026, there have been 198 tows/recoveries and 247 OSOM movements since the detour was implemented.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Communications activities continue in preparation for the Bathurst 1000, including targeted messaging for motorists travelling in and around the region, with a focus on expected traffic conditions and travel planning.

- Communication materials are being prepared ahead of the upcoming school holiday and Labour Day long weekend travel period.
- The next Community Update will be published at the end of September and will cover construction progress, detour safety, pedestrian improvements and available business support. Fortnightly SITREP emails and Community Update emails will continue.
- Transport continues to publish a weekly construction image on Live Traffic NSW, providing a consistent view of progress at the closure site from a project camera the same location as the former traffic camera.
- Weekly construction image updates are being prepared and published on the project website.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Community and stakeholder engagement activities continue, including regular meetings with local councils, the Department of Education, resident associations and the Community Reference Group.
- Transport is working with key stakeholders to provide travel information for students undertaking Higher School Certificate examinations during the Bathurst 1000 bump out period. Parents are reminded to leave extra time for school drop offs, particularly on Tuesday 13 October.
- Transport continues to work with Blue Mountains City Council and Lithgow City Council regarding Hartley Vale Road. The decision remains in place not to open the road to increased or two way traffic. Signage and communications continue to reinforce that the road remains one-way for westbound traffic only and are intended for local traffic access only.
- Community notifications have been issued regarding commencement of 24-hour construction activities

ONLINE RESOURCES

Transport for NSW Great Western Highway closure webpage

http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/gwhvictoriapass

Live Traffic NSW

https://www.livetraffic.com/incident-details/267022

Trip Planner

https://transportnsw.info/trip

Authorised by	Date
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