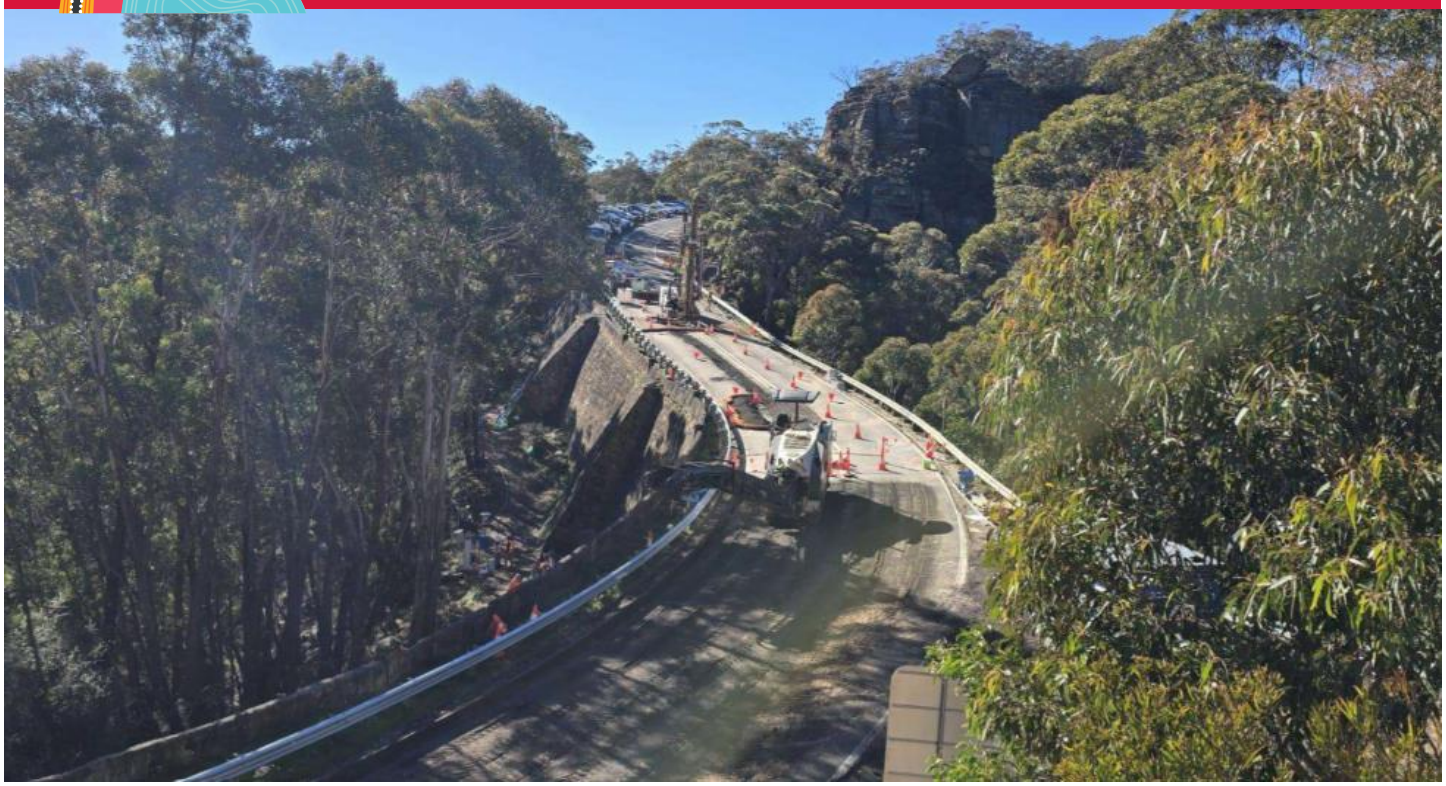
Community Update

Victoria Pass closure on the Great Western Highway

August 2026

Australian Government | BUILDING AUSTRALIA | NSW GOVERNMENT

Transport for NSW acknowledges the Wiradjuri, Darug and Gundungurra people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past and present.



Work underway on Victoria Pass on the Great Western Highway

The Australian and NSW Governments are investing in restoring Victoria Pass and reopening the Great Western Highway.

The Australian Government has allocated $100 million, matching the $100 million committed by the NSW Government in the 2026-2027 NSW State Budget, bringing the total budget for the project to $200 million.

The joint commitment will fund reinstatement of the Great Western Highway at Victoria Pass, as well as the delivery of an additional eastbound climbing lane to enhance the resilience, reliability and long-term performance of this important transport corridor.

Teams are removing the existing road pavement and road base in preparation for building the new bridge structure.

This joint investment reinforces the shared commitment of both governments to this critical corridor that connects the Central West with Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

Reopening the Great Western Highway

The Great Western Highway is a vital freight and travel route relied on by local communities, businesses, tourism operators, agricultural producers and freight operators every day. The reinstated and upgraded Victoria Pass crossing will improve the resilience of the network and the communities it supports and provides a safer, more reliable connection.

Work began in July 2026, with crews progressing site establishment, construction of a working platform and preparations for major piling operations that will support the new bridge structure.

More than 150 workers have been inducted into the project, with around 40 working on site each day.

The new bridge will restore Victoria Pass to its original capacity with one lane in each direction. The project will include a climbing lane in the eastbound direction, which will be incorporated into project delivery.

Above and below: removing the asphalt on Mitchells Causeway on Victoria Pass.

Above: work is progressing to remove the road surface and install the micro piles that will help support the main drilling rig.

School Drive support now available for impacted families

Financial support is available for families driving their children to school around the detour.

Families whose journeys are significantly impacted by the closure and detours can now apply for a temporary School Drive Subsidy to help with school travel costs, with claims able to be backdated to 9 March 2026.

Students living in Hartley, Little Hartley, Hartley Vale, Kanimbla and Oberon who attend selected Blue Mountains schools can apply. Usual eligibility requirements still apply, and Transport will consider other students on a case-by-case basis.

Transport has worked closely with local schools and bus operators to reduce impacts on students. While recent changes have improved travel times for many, some families continue to face longer journeys. This temporary subsidy provides additional support while work continues to reopen the highway. More information is available at **transport.nsw.gov.au/gwhvictoriapass/sds**

Pedestrian safety boost in Mount Victoria

Work has been fast tracked to install a pedestrian refuge and narrow the road width on Station Street in Mount Victoria to boost safety for people of all ages and abilities as they make their way around the village.

Transport has responded to concerns about pedestrian safety that the community have raised since the closure of Victoria Pass led to a significant increase in traffic detouring through the village.

Work to install the new pedestrian refuge and roadside build-outs will begin soon. We ask all motorists to drive to the conditions and follow the directions of signs and traffic control.

Community advocates, Member for Blue Mountains Trish Doyle MP and Blue Mountains City Council representatives met with Transport in Mount Victoria to discuss the best location for pedestrian safety improvements.

Stay alert. Be patient. Get there safely.

Small actions behind the wheel, like putting your phone away and keeping a safe distance, can make a big difference.

We're working closely with the NSW Police Force to help keep everyone safe on the detour route and ask you to take extra care, stay patient and follow the road rules.

- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the one ahead.
- Follow speed limits on Darling Causeway and Chifley Road, noting some limits have recently changed.
- Avoid distractions and keep your phone out of reach.
- In the event of an incident, remain in your vehicle and do not attempt a U-turn unless directed by emergency services or traffic controllers.

By following these simple safety tips, we can help keep the detour route safe for everyone in our community.

Support for businesses

Local businesses affected by the Victoria Pass closure can access free advisory support through Service NSW on **13 77 88**. Applications for financial assistance are now open and close on **22 January 2027**. More information is available at the **Rural Assistance Authority** website: www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/gwh.

Where are we now?

WE ARE HERE

Contract award Mitchells Causeway
June 2026

Start of work at Mitchells Causeway
July 2026

Construction is currently underway
August 2026

Work completed at Mitchells Causeway
Second quarter 2027

Detour roadworks: the figures so far

43,268 tonnes of asphalt to strengthen the road

134.9 kilometres of line marking for increased safety

9km of shoulder widening

Hearing from the community

The team at (clockwise from top left) Little Hartley, Lithgow, Mount Victoria and Oberon.

Transport for NSW, Reconstruction Authority, Service NSW and NSW Health representatives have been out in the community talking to people about how the closure is impacting them.

Your feedback is helping us identify issues the community are facing, and allowing us to work on improvements and solutions.

Sign up for our ENewsletter at:
www.transport.nsw.gov.au/gwhvictoriapass

To provide feedback, please go to:
www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/gwhvictoriapass

Contact us

General enquiries: 1800 953 777 (option 1)
Construction enquiries: 1800 953 777 (option 2)

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Construction enquiries:
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www.transport.nsw.gov.au/gwhvictoriapass

51 Currajong Street, Parkes, NSW 2870

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