



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Nowra Bridge

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Project cost: \$310 million

Estimated AG funding: \$155 million

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will increase the river crossing capacity over the Shoalhaven River at Nowra with the construction of a new bridge, providing three northbound lanes and a northbound local traffic lane. The existing northbound bridge will be converted to carry southbound traffic, increasing southbound capacity. The project will also upgrade intersections at Bolong Road, Illaroo Road, Bridge Road and Pleasant Way. The project will improve the efficient movement of freight and other vehicles, including emergency services, and improve security and access to community facilities. The old southbound bridge will be retained for ongoing community use, such as pedestrian and cycle path use. This project is estimated to support approximately 300 direct jobs.

Related/complementary projects

The Australian Government has committed \$10 million towards planning for the Shoalhaven River Bridge and up to \$5 million towards a Princes Highway Corridor Study.

PROBLEM

The Princes Highway is a critical arterial spine for south-east NSW. The rail link ceases at Bombaderry, north of Nowra, and many coastal communities rely exclusively on road for freight and visitor transport. Approximately 15% of the region's workforce rely on the river crossing to travel to Sydney for work. Increased tourist traffic to the Shoalhaven and surrounding areas on the NSW south coast during holiday periods results in a deterioration of traffic conditions. Approximately 50,000 vehicles cross the river on an average day. The existing southbound bridge, built in 1881, has height and weight limits and is in need of substantial repairs. The progressive upgrade of the highway is increasing road safety, improving freight productivity and reducing travel time, delays and congestion.

BENEFITS

Improve Productivity:

- Addressing height and weight limitations on southbound freight vehicles.

Reduced Congestion and Improved Travel Times:

- Increase capacity through additional lanes, and intersection upgrades on approach roads.
- Reduced wait times for freight, commuter and tourist traffic, particularly during peak times and holiday periods.

Support Future Traffic Demand:

- Improved traffic efficiency, travel time cost savings and improve access and community amenity.
- Replace an aging asset with a new asset that services future travel demand and growth.

Improve Access and Amenity:

- Improved access and security for emergency services to the district hospital, and to community facilities.

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