



Australian Government

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**



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## The Project

### What are the benefits of the Ellerton Drive extension project?

The 4.6 kilometre Ellerton Drive extension provides an alternative route around the Central Business District and connects east Queanbeyan to the new southern population growth areas.

Additional benefits:

- Motorists will be able to avoid up to 19 intersections and at least three sets of traffic lights
- The speed limit will be 80 km/h avoiding the 50 km/h sections of Queanbeyan central business district as well as school zones
- Reduced traffic congestion in Queanbeyan
- Up to a 38 per cent travel time saving compared to the existing route
- An extra bridge crossing built to withstand a one in 100 year flood event
- Reduce heavy vehicles travelling through the central business district

### What community consultation about the road design took place prior to construction?

The Ellerton Drive extension was first planned in the early 70s and in the 40 plus years since then there has been a range of community consultation and discussion. In more recent years the following consultation and community communication activities have occurred:

- Queanbeyan Strategic Traffic Plan 2009/ Googong and Tralee Traffic Study (2031) in 2009
- Public transport forums in 2011
- Local indigenous consultation in 2012, 2014 and 2016
- Pre – Review of Environmental Factors including access points to Greenleigh and Fairlane Estate consultation in 2013
- Review of Environmental Factors public exhibition and consultation activities in 2014/15
- Noise information sessions 2015
- Community public forum in 2015
- Survey of Queanbeyan Local Government residents
- SIS Addendum 2016
- Determination Panel meeting – July 2016

A full history of the Ellerton Drive extension can be viewed in the interactive timeline on Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council's website at <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Major-Works-Projects/Ellerton-Drive-Extension>

### Where can I find a map which shows where the Ellerton Drive extension will be located?

A map of the project alignment can be found on the RMS website. To view the map of the project alignment, [Click Here](#).

## Construction Times

### What are construction hours?

Standard NSW construction hours are as follows:

- 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday
- 8am to 1pm Saturday
- No work on Sundays and public holidays

At this stage of the project, it is unlikely that out-of-hours work will be required, however if this is required, adjoining residents and community members will be notified in advance of these works.

### Why have I seen vehicles on site outside of construction hours?

No construction work is to take place outside of construction hours unless prior notification has been given to residents. However light vehicles (including work utes) and some smaller trucks, such as water carts, are still able to travel through the alignment outside of standard construction times. In periods of hot weather, water carts may run over weekends and other periods to reduce dust impacts to adjoining residents, even though no works are physically occurring. Additionally, some deliveries that require special permits or police escorts, such as oversized loads, may be required to deliver items outside of standard hours on occasions.

## Noise Walls

### What is a noise wall?

Noise walls are a physical barrier or wall designed to provide a treatment to the noise impacts for noise created once the road is operational and open to traffic. Wall heights and material properties differ for each location with the aim to reduce noise levels to an acceptable level as required by the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) Road Noise Policy.

### Why are noise walls being constructed?

A noise study was completed during the environmental assessment of the project. As a result, noise walls will be installed along key areas of the project corridor to reduce predicted vehicle noise when the road becomes operational. Noise walls are being used in conjunction with a low noise pavement surface to reduce noise impacts. In a limited number of cases, the assessment also identified properties which were eligible for additional at-house noise treatment.

### Where are noise walls being constructed?

Noise walls are being constructed at eight locations across the project alignment. These locations are demonstrated in the [project map](#).

### When are noise walls being constructed?

All noise walls will be constructed prior to road opening in mid-2020.

Construction of noise walls on existing Ellerton Drive (East Queanbeyan) commenced in May 2018.

Noise wall construction along the new road alignment will start following the completion of substantial earth works as the majority of walls will be constructed on the final ground surface level.

## Environment

### How did you identify which trees needed to be removed?

Tree clearing has been limited to the approved development footprint for the project. Careful planning has been undertaken to minimise tree clearing within this footprint.

Trees were removed from the footprint if they were:

- Positioned where earthworks were being undertaken
- Too close to the final road alignment
- Hazardous, or likely to fall

There are many hectares of trees within the project footprint that do not need to be cleared and have not been cleared.

### What is being done to protect the platypus population in the Queanbeyan River?

Changes to the bridge design have been made to reduce the impact of bridge works on the Queanbeyan River and the local platypus population.

The Australian Platypus Conservancy recently visited the Ellerton Drive extension site to inspect the habitat of platypus within the Queanbeyan River. Permanent protection will be implemented along the river bank and around bridge piers. This will involve careful placement of large rocks to ensure that the platypus breed in a safe place within the Queanbeyan River. This protection work is scheduled to occur outside of the September 2018 to March 2019 platypus breeding season to prevent disruption to platypus breeding activity.

Australian Platypus Conservancy representatives believe that the changes to the bridge design and mitigation strategies developed for this project will further minimise impacts to the local platypus population.

### What is being done to protect Rosenberg's Goanna?

We have implemented successful strategies to reduce the impact to the endangered Rosenberg's Goanna.

During their breeding season, the goannas lay their eggs within termite mounds, allowing its young to feed on termites after they hatch. Environmental checks, including the use of motion sensing cameras were used to ensure that goannas were not using the termite mounds within the project area prior to the disturbance of termite mounds.

### What is being done to protect wildlife during construction?

A full time ecologist is working on the project. Surveys of vegetation have been undertaken before any clearing works start. If any wildlife is found during this process, there is a procedure of carefully removing the wildlife to a suitable location nearby and off the construction site.

Should any construction worker find wildlife along the construction site, work is stopped within the vicinity of the fauna until the ecologist can safely remove the fauna from the site.

### Where can I find a copy of the Environmental Protection Licence for the project?

The EPL for the project (#20852) is publicly available and can be found on the [EPA website](#).

## Dust

### How are construction dust levels monitored?

Dust monitoring is being undertaken in line with the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL).

Visual monitoring of dust is conducted during construction by staff working on the project site.

Dust monitors are installed at various locations nominated in the EPL. Monitoring is done through dust gauges and involves use of a glass jar and funnel apparatus, placed at the top of a metal stand for approximately one month. At the end of the monitoring period, the jars are collected, sealed and transported to a laboratory for analysis to measure the amount of dust that was deposited at that location.

### Why is construction dust monitored?

Dust is monitored throughout the project in line with the requirements outlined in the EPL. The results are evaluated on a monthly basis to ensure that the mitigation strategies to reduce the impact of dust are working effectively.

### Where is construction dust monitored?

Dust monitoring occurs at 10 locations specified on the EPL along the project alignment. Additional dust monitors have been installed within the project alignment to gain further data.

### When is construction dust monitored?

Dust monitors are collected and analysed on a monthly basis.

As required by the EPL, results of dust and noise monitoring are published on the WBHO website each month.

### Where are the dust monitoring results published?

Results of dust monitoring are publicly available in accordance with the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and can be found on the [WBHO website](#).

### There is no dust monitoring equipment at my property, can this be requested?

Dust monitoring is being conducted in line with the project's EPL issued by NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). Dust monitors have been installed at additional locations to assist the project team in achieving environmental outcomes. If you have any concerns regarding dust at your property, please contact the project team on 1800 116 337 or email [EllertonDrive@WBHO.com.au](mailto:EllertonDrive@WBHO.com.au)

### What efforts are being made to mitigate the impacts of construction dust?

- Reducing or stopping potential dust generating work during windy periods
- Water trucks frequently dampening exposed surfaces such as access tracks and earthwork areas
- Watering materials prior to mulching and hosing mulched timber
- Vehicle speed restrictions within the project site
- Installing revegetation as soon as possible to stabilise areas
- Use of soil binders and polymers on earthwork batters
- Vegetating or covering soil stockpiles
- Altering work methods or intensity

## Vibration

### When are vibration levels monitored?

An independent consultant was employed to carry out an assessment of the project prior to the start of earthworks to provide a recommendation on the vibration impacts and monitoring requirements. The consultant performed field testing to gauge real time vibration impacts. As a result of the field testing, monitoring will occur when vibratory construction activity is within 20 metres of properties.

The EPL does not specify vibration monitoring locations or a frequency for monitoring. Vibration monitoring will be carried out during vibration-intensive construction activities such as:

- Rock crushing
- Rock hammering
- Mulching
- Soil compaction
- Piling for noise walls
- Piling for bridge piers
- Earthworks

### Why is construction vibration monitored?

The results of vibration monitoring allow the project team to determine and implement reasonable mitigation strategies to reduce the impact of vibration.

### When is construction vibration monitored?

The project team implement vibration monitoring at locations close to where vibration-intensive construction is being conducted.

### Where are the results of construction vibration monitoring published?

The publishing of vibration results is only required if any blasting was to occur onsite. The vibration monitoring results relating to this type of activity would be published on the [WBHO website](#) in accordance with the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*. However, blasting is not anticipated for this project at this stage.

As the EPL does not specify any other vibration monitoring locations, frequencies or limits, vibration results are not published. Vibration monitoring results to date have all been within the limits assessed as not having the potential to cause damage to adjoining properties.

### There is no vibration monitoring equipment at my property, can this be requested?

If you have any concerns regarding vibration at your property please contact the project team 1800 116 337 or email [EllertonDrive@WBHO.com.au](mailto:EllertonDrive@WBHO.com.au)



## Noise

### How are construction noise levels monitored?

Construction noise monitoring is being carried out in line with the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL). Noise monitoring is done using a hand-held sound level meter.

### Why is construction noise monitored?

The results of noise monitoring allow the project team to determine and implement reasonable noise mitigation strategies to reduce the impact of noise.

### Where is construction noise monitored?

There are nine noise monitoring locations nominated in the Environment Protection Licence (EPL), which has been issued by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA). Additional noise monitoring is also carried out for certain activities with the potential to generate high noise impact such as mulching and rock hammering.

### When is construction noise monitored?

Noise monitoring is conducted each month at locations specified in the EPL. Monitoring is carried out during peak construction times.

Machinery-specific noise assessments are also undertaken to verify that they are meeting manufacturers' standards for noise generation.

### Where is the result of construction noise monitoring published?

Results of the noise monitoring are publicly available and can be found on the [WBHO website](#). This is in accordance with the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*

### There is no construction noise monitoring equipment at my property, can this be requested?

Noise monitoring is being conducted in line with the project's EPL, and in additional locations where data is required to assist the project team to achieve environmental outcomes. If you have any concerns regarding noise please contact the project team on 1800 116 337 or email [EllertonDrive@WBHO.com.au](mailto:EllertonDrive@WBHO.com.au)

### What efforts are being made to mitigate the impacts of noise?

Standard construction noise mitigation measures are being implemented in accordance with RMS Guidelines.

Where high noise impact work is being undertaken, additional mitigation is also investigated and applied in accordance with RMS Guidelines:

- Limit work to standard hours in the ELP
  - 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday
  - 8am to 1pm Saturdays
  - No work on Sundays or Public Holidays
- Using smaller machinery where possible to minimise noise generation
- Respite periods are provided for high noise impact works. After three hours of high noise activities (75dBA and above), those activities will stop for one hour
- Noise checks on machinery to ensure noise levels are appropriate
- Training, inductions and toolbox talks inform workers of practices to minimise noise
- Proactive noise monitoring during certain construction activities to determine if further mitigation is required.

## Traffic Impacts

### How will traffic on existing Ellerton Drive be impacted during noise wall construction?

Traffic changes have been made along the existing section of Ellerton Drive to allow space for the construction of noise walls, and relocation of utility services.

Changes include:

- Temporary fencing preventing access to the shoulder and verge of the road on both sides
- Decreased width of existing road
- Creation of a temporary pedestrian walkway on the southern side near Tennyson Mews
- Reduction of speed limit to 40 km/h.

These traffic changes will remain in place until noise wall construction is complete on both sides of existing Ellerton Drive. We ask that all vehicles and pedestrians exercise caution when passing through the area.

### How will traffic on Barracks Flat Drive be impacted during construction?

Minor traffic changes have been put in place on Barracks Flat Drive to allow for the start of the new bridge construction across the Queanbeyan River.

Changes include:

- Temporary fencing restricting access to the bridge construction site
- Crossing of construction vehicles across Barracks Flat Drive to access construction on both sides of the road
- Creation of a temporary pedestrian walkway around the construction site
- Reduction of speed limit to 40 km/h near the construction site

These traffic changes are expected to be in place for the duration of construction. We ask that all drivers and pedestrians exercise caution when passing through the area.

## Road design

### Why are there no permanent entry and exit points to Greenleigh?

In 2013 Council sought feedback from Greenleigh residents about access onto Ellerton Drive extension. The majority of feedback from the suburb requested that only gated emergency access be provided at the end of Lonergan Drive and adjacent to No.32 Severne Street (water reservoirs).

Shared path connections will be constructed to connect pedestrians and cyclists to the shared path along the Ellerton Drive extension at the end of Lonergan Drive and adjacent to No.32 Severne Street (water reservoirs).

### How do I enter and exit Barracks Flat Drive from the completed Ellerton Drive extension?

There will be a new road connection to Barracks Flat Drive adjacent to No. 74 Barracks Flat Drive that will allow traffic heading south on Ellerton Drive from the Yass Road direction to enter Barracks Flat Drive. It will also allow traffic from Old Cooma Road to turn left into Barracks Flat Drive and allow traffic from Barracks Flat Drive to turn left and head towards Yass Road.

Traffic from Barracks Flat Drive heading towards Old Cooma Road will be able to join Ellerton Drive extension through an on ramp next to No. 130 Barracks Flat Drive, instead of using the traffic lights with Thornton Road.

These access roads were included in the design following the 2013 consultation period with the residents and owners in the Barracks Flat area, the majority of whom supported these connections.

### Can I access White Rocks?

The public can cross Ellerton Drive extension at the traffic lights with Old Cooma Road. From the lights pedestrians can walk on the previous trail to White Rocks once construction is completed. During construction, access through areas of the construction site is prohibited.

### Will there be any road crossings (over/under) to access bushland?

Ellerton Drive extension does not reduce or remove access to any public reserves. Much of the bushland east of Ellerton Drive extension is not for public use.

Bushland that is privately owned and shouldn't be accessed by the public include:

- Curtis Estate at the end of current Ellerton Drive
- Jumping Creek at the end of Lonergan Drive

The Crown Land surrounding White Rocks and Fairlane Estate is currently under a land claim. It is therefore treated as private property; public access is unable to be provided to privately owned land.

The public will be able to access the White Rocks swimming area via the current trail starting at the traffic lights at Old Cooma Road once construction is complete. For residents of Fairlane Estate, there are multiple off road shared path connections to side streets such as Alfred Place, Fitzgibbon Place, Webber Place and Barracks Flat Drive under the bridge, which lead down to the traffic lights at Old Cooma Road for a safe crossing.

The bushland near the Council water reservoirs, although purchased for part of the project, is still classified as private property, and is currently under a residential lease. Ultimately, the private land surplus to the road requirements will be a registered biodiversity offset site and be permanently managed for conservation purposes into the future.

### How will the increase in traffic through Jerrabomberra from the Ellerton Drive extension be managed?

Ellerton Drive extension will have little direct impact on the traffic volumes along Edwin Land Parkway. It is expected that the road will add approximately 500 vehicles/day to Jerrabomberra by 2031.

Traffic volumes through Jerrabomberra are however expected to increase significantly as a result of growth from Googong. Developments at South Jerrabomberra (eg. Poplars, Tralee) will add significant traffic volumes onto Tomsitt Drive.

### What changes will be made to the Lanyon Drive/Tomsitt Drive roundabout?

The Australian and NSW Governments have jointly announced \$12 million towards improving road safety and traffic efficiency at the Lanyon Drive and Tomsitt Drive intersection. The proposed upgrade will replace the existing roundabout with traffic lights to reduce traffic congestion and cater for future traffic growth. The project is expected to be completed in late 2019.

Project benefits:

- Reduce the significant queuing being experienced by motorists during peak times
- Reduce traffic delays for motorists travelling through the intersection
- Improved road safety at this intersection
- Provides for future traffic growth.

### What changes will be made to the Jerrabomberra Circle (large roundabout)?

The latest traffic modelling indicates that the Jerrabomberra Circle does not need upgrading for traffic capacity reasons before 2031. Council did however review the need to upgrade the intersection to traffic signals to improve pedestrian movements, cyclist movements and interaction with adjoining intersections in 2015. Community consultation at this time however resulted in the majority of residents indicating that they did not want the roundabout changed to traffic signals and it was determined not to proceed with the project at this stage.

### How will the increase in traffic along Yass Road from the Ellerton Drive extension be managed?

Ellerton Drive extension will not add a significant volume of traffic to Yass Road but would provide an alternate route around the CBD for traffic already using the north/south route between Cooma Street and Yass Road.

### What changes will be made to the Yass Road roundabout?

Traffic forecasting studies conducted on the Yass Road roundabout have indicated that the extension of Ellerton Drive should assist to alleviate traffic pressure on this roundabout as there will be a more even distribution of traffic flow across each leg of the roundabout. Roads and Maritime Services have no current plans to change this roundabout, however will continue to monitor the performance of the roundabout and future needs assessed once the Ellerton Drive extension is complete.

## Construction impacts to property

### What is a property condition survey/ dilapidation report?

A property condition survey is a photographic and written record to determine the internal and external condition of a property. The survey involves inspection of the main structures of the buildings on a property by a suitably qualified independent professional who prepares a report. It is common for property condition surveys to be undertaken on buildings next to significant construction works, prior to the start of work.

### I have had a property condition survey/ dilapidation report completed for my property. Will a second dilapidation report be completed once the project is completed?

The initial dilapidation report serves as a record for both the property owner and the project team of a property's condition prior to the start of construction work. A follow-up survey will only be done if required.

### What do I do if I think my property has been damaged as a result of the construction activity?

If you have any concerns regarding your property, please call the project team on 1800 116 337.

## Communication

### What is the procedure for notifying residents directly impacted by construction activities?

General project updates and construction related information can be accessed via RMS's website at [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/ede](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/ede)

Residents directly impacted by construction activities will be notified via notifications, newsletters, or phone calls from the project's communications team.

### Who do I contact for further information about this project?

For construction related matters contact the project team on:

Call: 1800 116 337

Email: [ellertondrive@wbho.com.au](mailto:ellertondrive@wbho.com.au)

You can also email [ellertondrive@wbho.com.au](mailto:ellertondrive@wbho.com.au) to register your details for project updates including planned works, changes to work times and traffic conditions as well as project milestones.

For enquiries about the project that are not related to construction contact QPRC on:

Call: 1800 316 644

Email: [ede.enquiries@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ede.enquiries@qprc.nsw.gov.au)