

MUSWELLBROOK BRIDGES REPLACEMENT

ARTC

PROJECT UPDATE

MAY 2020

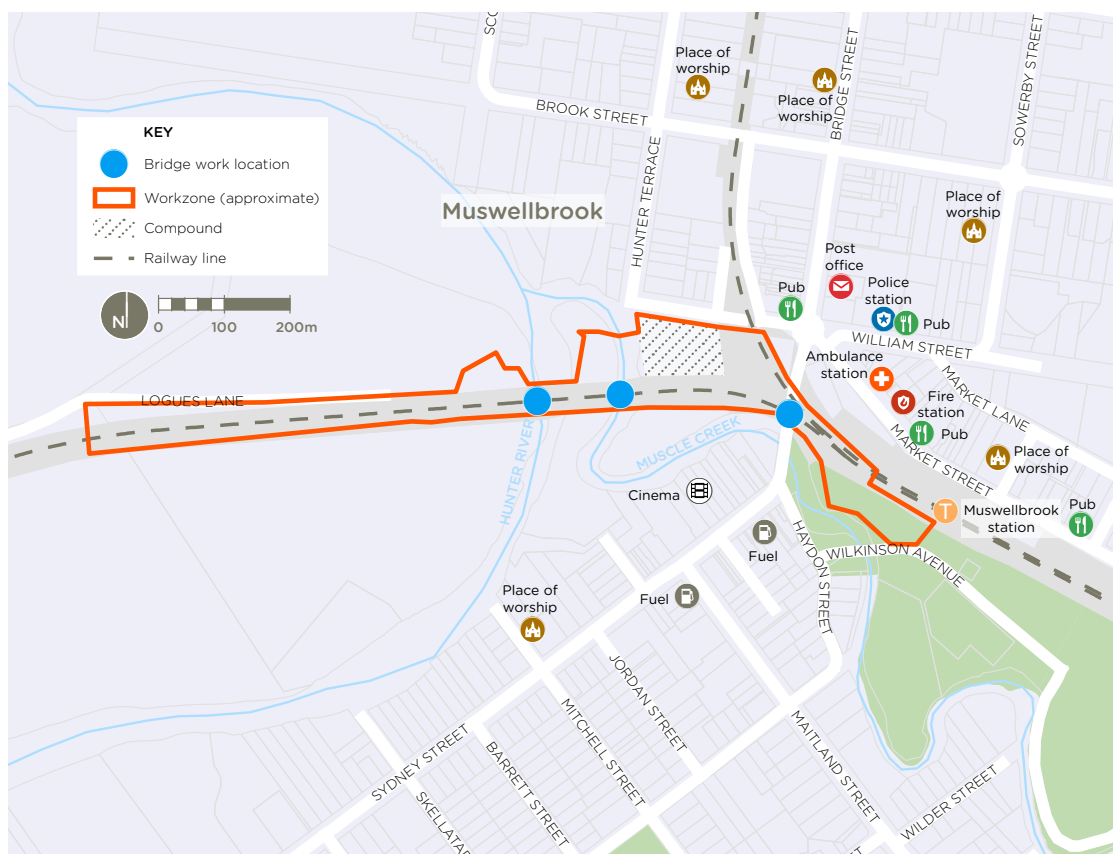
WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) is replacing three bridges (being the Hunter River Bridge, Muscle Creek Bridge and Bridge Street) with two new bridges within and next to the rail corridor, Muswellbrook, NSW. Works at the site will begin in mid-June 2020. The project is expected to be completed in two years.

This essential project is required as the existing bridges are nearing the end of their structural design life and are a risk to the reliability of our rail network. The planned activities to be undertaken during this project work include:

- establish a compound area and laydown areas
- undertake vegetation removal
- delivery of project materials and equipment
- sheet piling/retaining wall works
- earthworks
- piling
- construction of temporary bridge over Muscle Creek
- tamping and trackwork
- onsite bridge construction
- bridges installation
- bridges demolition
- landscaping

PROJECT STATUS: IN CONSTRUCTION



PROJECT PLANS – June and July

Site mobilisation is scheduled to commence in June. This work includes installation of temporary site offices and amenities, earthworks, and onsite parking for the project team. This work will predominantly be focused on the main compound area located within the rail corridor off Lower William St. Activity should also be expected within a secondary smaller compound off Wilkinson Ave.

From July, piling will commence near Muscle Creek within the work area. This work is part of building a temporary access bridge over Muscle Creek, a temporary casting yard for the proposed Muscle Creek and Hunter River (MCHR) bridge, and the permanent foundations for the MCHR bridge.

Other works that you may see over this period include the installation of a protective hoarding along the pedestrian walkways on Bridge St, retaining wall construction works adjacent to the footpath between Bridge St and Wilkinson Ave, and some minor vegetation clearing works.

TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATH CHANGES

The local community may notice temporary changes to local streets and one footpath.

From June, there will be an increase in light and heavy vehicles travelling along local streets to access the site compounds. Residents along Hunter Terrace, Lower William St, Hayden St and Wilkinson Ave will notice a small increase in traffic while machinery and material deliveries are made. All drivers will follow detailed traffic management plans.

To safely facilitate heavy vehicle access to the site compounds, traffic control will stop local traffic for a short period. Delays should **not** be expected.

From July, pedestrians will not be able to use the Muscle Creek footpath between Bridge St and Wilkinson Ave while construction of a retaining wall occurs. Temporary detours along Bridge Street will be in place while protective hoarding is installed. Signage and traffic control will assist pedestrians to safely move around this area. This work is expected to take around five weeks to complete.

NOISE

The project work will involve different types of equipment which will generate temporary and intermittent noise. We will be implementing all reasonable and feasible measures to minimise noise levels across the work site during construction hours.

CONSTRUCTION HOURS

Our normal construction hours are:

7.00AM TO 6.00PM - MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8.00AM TO 1.00PM - SATURDAY

Within the next two months, all work is expected to be undertaken during normal construction hours. Should this requirement change, we will notify you in advance.

COVID-19

The freight and transport industry has been identified as an essential service by the state and federal governments. These works are critical to keep trains and the supply chain moving. The safety of our staff and communities impacted by this essential maintenance work is our number one priority. We have implemented strict hygiene protocols, as set out by the relevant authorities. All staff will practice social distancing and minimise interactions with the local community.

As such, in instances where we would otherwise door knock to inform near neighbours of upcoming works, we will letterbox drop information flyers instead.

The information provided is correct at the time of publishing but is subject to change due to unplanned or unexpected events such as operational changes or heavy rain.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

ARTC is committed to working with landowners, communities, state and local governments as a vital part of our planning and consultation work, and we value your input. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know.

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