

**The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) is planning to replace three existing rail bridges in Muswellbrook from early 2020, in works called the Muswellbrook Bridge Replacement Project.**

The project involves replacement of the existing bridges spanning Bridge St (Southernmost of the two bridges only), Muscle Creek and Hunter River. The Bridge St structure will be replaced with a 26m long single span concrete bridge, with the Muscle Creek and Hunter River Bridges replaced with a combined 175m long multi span concrete bridge. Main project works are scheduled to commence in May 2020, with all site works scheduled for completion by June 2022.

**Current Status: Exhibition**



**Planning for the future**

The Project is being undertaken for the purpose of improving rail network reliability.

All three existing bridges have reached the end of their design life, resulting in more frequent and significant maintenance intervention works, which on occasion has required for the unplanned closure of the rail network.

In time the risk of unplanned network closures will increase, and therefore all three bridges have been scheduled for replacement.

**Where is it?**

Works will take place over a 900m section of the rail corridor. Starting approximately 100m to the west of Muswellbrook train station, extending west along the Ulan rail line, approximately 500m from the Hunter River.

Four compound areas will also be established across the project to facilitate construction. These areas will be used for material storage, plant storage, site offices and construction access.

## What is involved?

The project involves the replacement of three existing rail bridges with two new concrete rail bridges.

The proposed Bridge St bridge will be constructed in the same location as the existing bridge. The existing bridge deck and central bridge pier will be demolished as part of the project, with the existing brick abutments retained as a façade to the new bridge.

The proposed Muscle Creek and Hunter River bridge will be constructed in a new location on the Northern side of the existing bridges. This will require the construction of a 600m long section of new rail formation for connection to the existing track. This new location has been selected to allow construction during normal rail operations. Both existing bridges will be demolished once the new bridge is operational.

## We would like to hear from you

We welcome any comments you may have regarding the project and associated REF documents. Please contact our project team with any comments via email on [mbr@artc.com.au](mailto:mbr@artc.com.au) by **17 February 2020**.

## Will it be noisy?

It is expected that impacts from construction noise will be minimal. The majority of the works will be undertaken during standard construction hours, with out of hours works limited to Hunter Valley Rail Closedowns.

Notification will be provided to all impacted residents prior to any out of hours works, with controls such as temporary noise barriers, scheduling noisy activities where possible during the day etc, implemented throughout the project to mitigate potential impacts.



Bridge Street underbridge.

## Will the project impact traffic?

The project will require closure of Bridge St on multiple occasions to facilitate construction. These closures will typically be of short duration (up to 12hrs) and preferentially scheduled for periods where traffic volume is at its lowest. In addition, one continuous 96hr closure of Bridge St will be required to both safely demolish the existing bridge and install the new bridge. Alternate traffic routes will be provided during all road closures.

The project will also generate some additional traffic throughout construction. This will be particularly evident along Brook St, Lower William St, and Hunter Terrace. ARTC are committed to ensuring all existing roads remain in a safe and reliable condition throughout the project and will work directly with residents to mitigate any project impacts.



The Hunter River Bridge - looking west over the Hunter River.

## When will the works take place?

The current plan is for the main project works to commence in May 2020, with all site works completed by June 2022. Project activities will typically be continuous throughout this period, with works predominantly undertaken during standard construction hours.

There will also be some early site works undertaken prior to this date. These works include detailed project investigations and site preparation type works. These works will all be short term in nature, and typically undertaken during standard construction hours.

## How can I find out more?

The project REF is available for viewing on the ARTC website ([artc.com.au](http://artc.com.au)) on the Community / Environment page.

Contact us on 1300 550 402 or email [enviroline@artc.com.au](mailto:enviroline@artc.com.au)

[www.artc.com.au](http://www.artc.com.au)

Australian Rail Track Corporation

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