

Woomargama bypass

Work is continuing on the \$265 million Woomargama bypass. The nine kilometre bypass is being built to the west of Woomargama, joining the existing Hume Highway divided carriageways to the north and south of the village. The project is fully funded by the Australian Government.

Background

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is managing the planning and construction of a dual carriageway bypass of Woomargama to improve transport efficiency and safety.

An option to the west of Woomargama was confirmed as the preferred route in September 2008. In January 2010 the NSW Minister for Planning approved the project under the *Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The Hume Highway Woomargama Alliance has been formed to design and construct the Woomargama bypass. The Alliance team comprises the RTA, Abigroup and Sinclair Knight Merz.

Preliminary works commenced in February 2010 and the project is scheduled for completion in late 2011.

Project benefits

The bypass will provide significant benefits including:

- Removal of most heavy vehicle movements from the village.
- Improved pedestrian safety along the current Hume Highway route in the village.
- Travel time and fuel savings for vehicles moving between Sydney and Melbourne.
- Local traffic separated from Hume Highway through traffic.
- Improved road safety.

Project features

- Four-lane divided carriageway with a wide median and a 110km/h speed limit.
- Intersections located 1.5 kilometres south of Woomargama and 6.5 kilometres north of Woomargama, with merging acceleration and deceleration lanes for access into and out of the village.
- Twin bridges over Sandy Creek.
- Twin bridges over Mountain Creek.
- An intersection upgrade at Fairbairn Road.
- Deep cuttings of at least 25 metres through sections of the western slopes of Mount McKenzie.
- Landscaping and urban design treatments to minimise visual impact.
- Environmental controls to minimise impacts on nearby waterways and natural areas.

What has happened so far?

Major construction started on 4 May 2010. A site office was established on the outskirts of Woomargama on 31 May 2010.

Since that time, equipment has progressively been brought to the site. About 100 items of heavy plant, including scrapers, bulldozers, trucks and excavators, are currently located on site.

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What is happening now

There are about 350 personnel currently working on the project, including around 200 subcontractors.

The main focus of the current works program is:

- Controlling traffic movements at the northern end of the project while the connection with the new alignment is built.
- Cut and fill earthworks along the alignment, including blasting rock from the major cuttings.
- Onsite crushing of material for use on the project.
- Installing pile footings for the bridges over Sandy and Mountain Creeks.

Select materials are also being imported to the site on a regular basis from Rockley Falls Quarry, north of Holbrook.

When the concrete paving starts later this year, aggregates for the concrete production will also be sourced from this quarry. This will result in up to 60 truck movements per day through Woomargama during the paving phase of construction.

Construction hours

Construction hours are Monday to Friday from 7am to 6pm and Saturday from 8am to 1pm.

Blasting work is only carried out from Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and Saturday from 9am to 1pm.

Occasionally some construction activities or deliveries may require work outside these hours. Nearby residents will be advised prior to this work taking place.

Keeping the community informed

A permanent display has been set up at the Woomargama bypass site office and the Community Hall so residents and stakeholders can keep up to date with the project as construction progresses.

Website information is updated regularly and newsletters are circulated to the community as required.

Advertisements, traffic notifications and mail box letters will advise property owners, the local community, businesses and road users of construction activities and changes to traffic conditions.

Community information sessions

Community information sessions are held every four to six months to give local residents an opportunity to learn more about the project and discuss any issues with the project team.

The next community information session will be held at the Woomargama Community Hall on Wednesday 27 October 2010.

A short presentation will be given by the project team at 6.30pm followed by an opportunity for the community to ask the team members questions. You do not need to register for this information session.

Further information

Please contact the Hume Highway Woomargama Alliance if you have any enquiries, comments or complaints.

Project information line: 1800 674 934

Email: HHWA.feedback@abigroup.com.au

Write to: PO Box 4042, Woomargama NSW 2644

Website: www.rta.nsw.gov.au (Hume Highway duplication)

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A team consisting of the Roads and Traffic Authority, Abigroup and Sinclair Knight Merz.

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