Newcastle Inner City Bypass – Shortland to Sandgate

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has partnered with Thiess Pty Ltd to complete the Shortland to Sandgate section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass. This letter updates construction progress and outlines upcoming work.

**Construction milestones completed**

**Bridges over the Main Northern Railway**

Another milestone was achieved in mid-May on the Newcastle Inner City Bypass project with the launching of the southbound bridge, which is the second of the twin bridges being built over the Main Northern Railway at Sandgate.

The project includes two bridges over the Main Northern Railway that consist of three spans, with an overall length of 112 metres. The northbound bridge was successfully launched in March this year. The work was unusual, as it involved pushing an almost complete bridge, with a mass of over 1,000 tonnes, across the railway corridor, with a maximum distance of 51 metres between supports. Although the railway lines were closed during this operation, the heavy mass of the structure makes this a major engineering and logistic challenge. The launch was planned in this way to avoid the need for any heavy engineering work between the railway lines. The design uses a combination of steel beams and a concrete deck, to minimise the weight for launching.

The launching method used on the project is not widely used in Australia. Its use here has prevented disruption to the Main Northern Railway, which is the main coal supply corridor to the Port of Newcastle, the largest coal exporting port in the world.

Now that both bridges are in place, further work can proceed, including completion of the concrete decks, construction of approach slabs, installation of traffic barriers and erection of safety screens.

The new bridges will provide two 3.5 metre wide travel lanes in each direction, as well as an additional crossing of the Main Northern Railway for traffic using the Newcastle Inner City Bypass.

**Sandgate Road bridge**

The construction of the Sandgate Road bridge is now complete and traffic was switched to the new bridge on 30 November 2012. The opening of the Sandgate Road bridge was an important milestone for the Newcastle Inner City Bypass project.

Located at the southern end of the Sandgate to Shortland project, the new bridge forms part of the final grade separated interchange. The new bridge provides a 2.5 metre wide pedestrian footpath along its northern side with two 3.5 metre wide travel lanes. A 40 km/h speed zone will remain over the new bridge until adjacent construction work is completed.

After the bridge opened, work started in April 2013 to excavate the old Sandgate Road to allow completion of that section of the bypass. The remaining interchange work at the Sandgate Road roundabout and southbound on-ramp will continue over the coming months. Final road resurfacing of Sandgate Road at either end of the bridge will be completed once the bypass has been opened to traffic.

**Upcoming and ongoing work**

- Excavation of old Sandgate Road and completion of Sandgate interchange.
- Completion of Deepbridge Creek and railway bridges.
- Maitland Road intersection works.
- Completion of earthworks and road pavement.

**Civil work**

Road pavement and drainage work is underway and will continue at various locations along the bypass alignment.
First stage of launching with launching nose overhanging the railway lines.

Launching nose touchdown on pier one.

Second stage of launching (night launching) nearing touchdown on pier two.

Aerial view of Sandgate Road interchange.
Partially launched bridge with train passing under.

Aerial view of construction looking east.

Northbound railway bridge in final position.
Aerial view of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass, Shortland to Sandgate project.

About the project

The Sandgate to Shortland project is a four-lane divided carriageway extension of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass for 1.8 kilometres between Shortland and Sandgate.

This extension will pass underneath Sandgate Road at Shortland, bridge over Deebridge Creek and the Main Northern Railway line, run past the western side of Sandgate Cemetery and join the Pacific Highway at Sandgate.

This extension of the existing Jesmond section will provide improved access between the developing western parts of Newcastle, regional produce markets and the Port of Newcastle.

The State government has provided $143 million for the completion of the Shortland to Sandgate section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass, which is expected to be completed by December 2013, subject to weather.

Contacting the project team

For all construction enquiries or to make a complaint please phone the Shortland to Sandgate project team on 1800 334 541 (toll free).

If we are unable to take your call, please clearly leave your name and telephone details and we will contact you as soon as possible. The project team thanks you for your patience during construction and apologise for any inconvenience.

For all other project enquiries please email the project manager Jason Laverty at jason.laverty@rms.nsw.gov.au or write to Jason Laverty, Project Manager, Roads and Maritime Services, Locked Bag 2030, Newcastle NSW 2300.