

# Kempsey-Armidale Road Recovery Program community update

## Natural Disaster Restoration

The project team thanks the community for their patience while the complex Big Hill stabilisation works were completed. These works are now complete and this particularly unstable area is now far more resilient to future inclement weather events. Pavement restoration works in this area will be complete 17 November 2021.



Works will soon commence on the repair and replacement of the 7 culverts (known as the 6 curves and corn patch culvert). This contract has been approved by council and will be awarded early December. This project is anticipated to take 8 months and will result in significant improvements to the stability, drainage and pavement in these seven areas. Given the narrow alignment and need to get materials and equipment to these sites, some traffic disruption is anticipated during these works.

The main recovery works have been documented, independently reviewed and are now with the state and federal governments for review and consideration. The works include:

- Construction of 1458m of structural geotechnical treatments
- Replacement of 80,000m<sup>3</sup> of pavement material
- Formalisation of pavement drainage
- Minor realignments to enable construction
- Replacement of 175 culverts

## Fixing Local Roads

In addition to the \$5 million funding grant for flying fox cutting, ARC has been successful in our submission for an additional \$3 million grant for Blackbird Flat. The project team are working on a concept design package for both areas to facilitate consultation with the community.

## **Community meeting**

The project team appreciated the opportunity to talk with the community at the Lower Creek Local Area Committee meeting held on 16 October 2021. A number of questions were taken on notice and the current status of these are provided below:

**Q. What is the status of the proposed works on Pee Dee Hill?**

A. The upgrade work at Pee Dee hill has been designed and once the Natural Disaster slope stability issues are resolved the work will proceed to tender. Kempsey Shire Council anticipate the works will be completed in 2022.

**Q. There is a fire damaged section of road in the Kempsey Shire Council area. In this section there are several damaged trees lying precariously above the road. Is there a plan to remove these hazardous trees and, if so, what the time frame would be?**

A. Kempsey Shire Council are regularly inspecting this area and removing anything deemed hazardous. An inspection was undertaken in the first week of November and no additional hazards were identified. If there is any particular tree that is of concern then residents are encouraged to provide detailed information to Kempsey Shire Council on 02 6566 3200, so that they can be promptly addressed.

**Q. Could a reduced speed zone be implemented at Lower Creek Village where the existing seal is?**

A. This issue was presented at the Traffic Committee meeting in early November. The request was supported by ARC. TfNSW has noted the request and will action this in due course. The project team will provide further information on this as it becomes available.

**Q. The community raised several concerns regarding large caravans travelling along the route and asked if anything could be done about restricting them?**

A. The concerns regarding caravans travelling Kempsey Road were noted at the Traffic Committee meeting. There are a range of additional implications that may result from further restricting caravan movements on the road (ie other types of vehicles that will be unintentionally captured). This issue is under review and further discussions will be held with the community prior to implementing further restrictions.

## **Keeping you informed**

**Note to residents:** In regard to the 6 Curves Contract, Armidale Regional Council will be in contact with you about gaining access to anyone that has property that fronts to the road.

We have introduced an SMS (text message) service to let people know in advance of planned closures and unplanned closures as they arise. If you are a user of the Kempsey-Armidale Road, we encourage you to sign up for this service. Simply email your name and contact phone number to [kempseyroad@armidale.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kempseyroad@armidale.nsw.gov.au) and we will make sure you are kept informed.

We will also keep your email address details so we can send you newsletters and regular updates. Your details will not be used for any purpose other than communication about Kempsey-Armidale Road.

If you have any questions, please call 1300 136 833 or email us at [kempseyroad@armidale.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kempseyroad@armidale.nsw.gov.au)

For more information on Kempsey-Armidale Road, visit Council's [works and projects section](#) on the website.

Thank you for your patience during this important work.