

Armidale - Kempsey Road Recovery

May 2022



ARMIDALE
Regional Council

www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au/kempseyroad

What happened?

Heavy rainfall in February and March 2022 caused significant damage to the Armidale-Kempsey Road, between Big Hill and Blackbird Flat, further exacerbating damage from prior natural disasters. While the revised restoration scope is being fully documented the specialist geotechnical engineers have identified 10 slips which imminently threaten the integrity of the road and require emergency repairs.

The February and March 2022 events have impacted a large swathe of NSW with numerous roads suffering significant damage and many communities remaining isolated. The number of roads suffering major slips and requiring urgent restoration is placing unprecedented demand on geotechnical and slope remediation resources.

ARC, in partnership with specialist contractors, have undertaken works to clear the majority of the road from debris and have mobilised to undertake immediate repair works on the most significant slips at Flying Fox Cutting and Waterfall corner.



What is Council doing?

From late February, ARC has been working with a specialist design partner to rapidly catalogue, investigate and design repair works for slip sites with priority given to sites that have cut the road access followed by slips that have a high risk of further failure.

The contractor has commenced repair works at Flying Fox cutting. Currently, the contractor is constructing a concrete wall and plan to commence concrete backfill shortly after.

Works have also commenced at Waterfall corner with the remedial design complete and the first of many soil nails installed.



Next steps

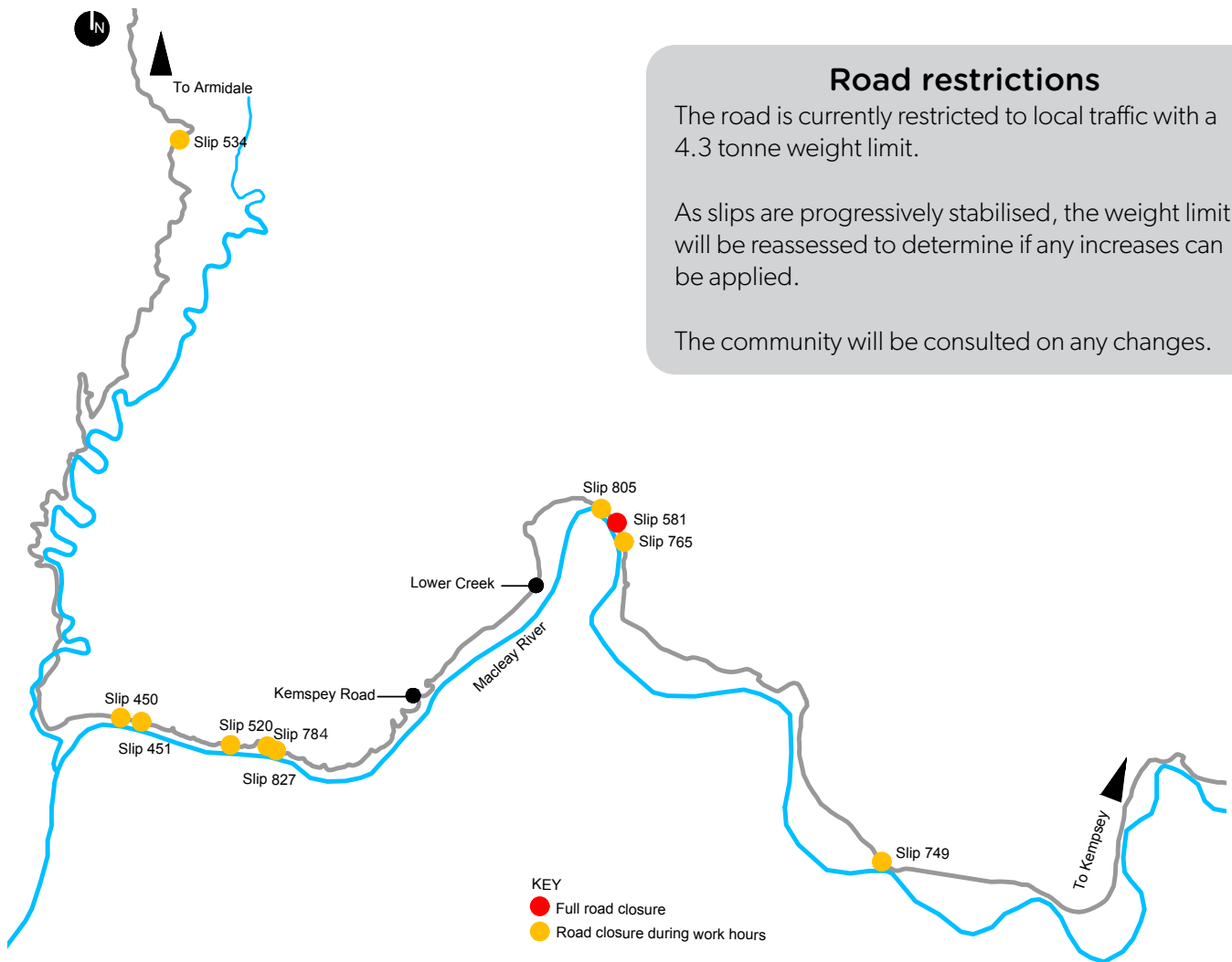
ARC is undertaking extensive repair works throughout the storm damaged area between White Rock and Flying Fox Cutting. The full restoration work for the 10 critical slips may take approximately 9 months to complete, weather permitting.

Restoration work is prioritised on the stability of slips and availability of access to the slip area. Some sites may require full road closure from time to time. The specialist contractor is working on a 10 day on 4 day off roster. The roads should be open when work crews are not on site, provided it is safe to do so.



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Road restrictions

The road is currently restricted to local traffic with a 4.3 tonne weight limit.

As slips are progressively stabilised, the weight limit will be reassessed to determine if any increases can be applied.

The community will be consulted on any changes.

Changed traffic conditions

ARC will be engaging with the community to determine the best way forward with regard to progressing the slip works. It is important to note that the 10 critical slips have been identified as a very high risk of closing the road should the failure progress.

To expedite construction, Council has mobilised four available crews and are proposing to close the road during work hours with limited windows for resident access.

The road will be closed for extended periods during working hours. During these times it is intended to provide 30 minute windows to allow traffic to pass the work locations. To assist in establishing windows that best suit the community, we will be referencing the responses provided in the [Lower Creek Community Profile survey](#).

Council is in the process of developing a process that will provide the ability to apply for exceptional access based on suitable reasons.

Signage will be installed at the work areas to indicate the working hours and traffic window.

Upcoming work and traffic changes

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| April 2022 - July 2022 | Slips - Interim stabilisation 450, 451, 520, 784 & 827 |
| March 2022 - June 2022 | Slip 581 |
| August 2022 - July 2022 | Slips 805 and 765 |
| To be determined | Slip 534 and 749 |

 Timing to be confirmed
 Road closures during working hours with potentially two 30 min windows
 Full road closure

Note: These time frames and closures are indicative only and are subject to change due to weather. Due to the remote nature of the site and varying geology, the productivity of each area is very difficult to estimate. Traffic changes will be in place for the duration of the restoration work, and may vary for each site.

SMS alert subscription

Stay informed via Council's SMS (text message) service of planned and unplanned closures as they arise. **Simply email your name and contact phone number to kempseyroad@armidale.nsw.gov.au and we will**

make sure you are kept informed. Council will also keep your email address details to send you newsletters and regular updates. Your details will not be used for any purpose other than communication about Armidale-Kempsey Road.