

Kempsey to Armidale Road Recovery

PROJECT NEWSLETTER - December 2022



Flying Fox Cutting

A risk assessment is being carried out by the project's geotechnical consultants to assess whether the load limit at Flying Fox Cutting can be increased to 20 tonne gross vehicle mass (GVM). The risk assessment has included an assessment of the condition of the entire road within the project boundary. A report regarding load limits is being prepared for Council for its consideration. Once an outcome is determined, the community will be informed by email and an update on the project website.

Council awards contract for early works



Seymour Whyte was accepted by Armidale Regional Council at the November monthly Council meeting as the preferred tenderer for the award of the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) Deed and Early Works Contract for the Kempsey to Armidale Road and three improvement works projects.

This will be Council's single largest project to be delivered.

The award of the ECI Deed will allow Seymour Whyte to progress detailed design and also undertake site inspections and early works on site such as additional site survey, any geotechnical investigations required and any other preparatory works ahead of the main construction works being undertaken.

The early works will be undertaken ahead of Seymour Whyte being awarded the design and construct contract next year. The design and construct contract is for the restoration of 43km of the Kempsey to Armidale Road and 5.1km of Lower Creek Road back to pre-disaster condition.

The three improvement project works are:

- Blackbird Flat Project
- Flying Fox Cutting Project
- Big Hill Section (3 curves)

A link is provided below to the Seymour Whyte home page:

(CTRL + click to follow link)

<https://seymourwhyte.com.au/>



Kempsey Road

Christmas break



Work on the project will cease at 12 noon on Wednesday December 21 2022. Work between George's Junction and Middle Creek Bridge will recommence on 3 January 2023 and on the main slip recovery works on 9 January 2023.

During the break, the road will be open to local residents only, and emergency and essential services. Additional signs have been put in place at either end of the project to deter non-residents from using the road. Leading up to the break and after works resume in January 2023, the traffic window in place allows for travel through work sites before 7am, between 11:30am and 12:15pm and after 4pm. Regular email updates provide information regarding access through the work sites.

During the break, increased load limit travel will be available each week once the road is inspected and approved for **authorised** travel. An updated calendar for January 2023 will be provided via email.

We recognise that there may be cumulative traffic delay impacts from other roadworks.

Kempsey Shire Council provides a weekly works update on its website. Link provided below. The Council also has a community e-newsletter database. Call 02 6566 3200 from 9am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday to be included in the e-newsletter on the database or email: ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Weekly updates can be found at the link below:

(CTRL + click to follow links)

<https://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/Your-Valley/Ongoing-works-in-the-shire/Weekly-Works-Update>

Waterfall Way: Transport for NSW (TfNSW) provides information on its website. Link to the project website provided below:

<https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/waterfall-way/index.html>

TfNSW also posts regularly on the Waterfall Way Community Facebook page. Link to the Facebook page provided below:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/waterfallwaycommunity>

Increased load limits

The Kempsey to Armidale Road currently has a load limit of 4.3 tonne GVM. Increased load limits were introduced to provide primary producers access to the Armidale and Kempsey cattle sales and to provide opportunities for all residents if they need to use a truck or vehicle greater than 4.3 tonne GVM to service their needs.

We have developed UHF radio protocols and emailed these out to ensure safe travel by residents taking advantage of the increased load limits.

A number of unauthorised heavy vehicle movements have been noticed and Council is taking steps to review this. Unauthorised heavy vehicle movements on days when the road has not been inspected for safety reasons could impact the progress of the road recovery works and delay its restoration to pre-disaster conditions.

Load limits and vehicle length restrictions

The following information is provided:

1. Access for increased load limits currently occurs on most Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week to the west and east of Flying Fox Cutting before 7am, after 4pm and between 11.30am and 12.15pm through work sites. When essential concrete works need to be undertaken, road closures are required to allow concrete trucks to safely access the site. If this is the case, increased load limits through work sites need to occur before 7am and after 4pm.

2. Vehicles greater than 4.3 tonne GVM are currently not permitted through Flying Fox Cutting due to safety and road structure concerns at either side of the current construction site. As advised above, an update will be provided once the assessment report has been provided to Council and a determination is made.

3. The road is currently restricted to local traffic with a 4.3 tonne GVM limit except on days when only inducted and authorised people will be able to drive on the road with vehicles and loads greater than 4.3 tonne GVM and less than 20 tonne GVM. Safety inspections of the road determines if travel is authorised.

4. The use of UHF radios by road users during increased load limit travel is required to improve safer travel for all.



5. Due to the condition of the road and the numerous tight corners, **vehicles in excess of 12.5m** are not permitted to travel within the project boundaries.

6. All road users intending to take advantage of increased load limits must complete an initial induction form (once only). A registration form must also be completed for each week's travel during increased load limits periods, before heavier vehicles are authorised to travel.

The induction and registration form can be found at the link below:

Links to the project web page: (CTRL + click to follow link)

<https://www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au/council/newsroom/works-and-projects/kempsey-road/load-limit-registration-and-induction-forms/kempsey-to-armidale-road-registration-forms>



Christmas message

We would like to thank everyone for their patience and wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Contact us:

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact us on **1300 136 833** and click menu option 1 or email: council@armidale.nsw.gov.au

Regular updates are available on the project website: <https://www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au/council/newsroom/works-and-projects/kempsey-road>

Recovery works photo gallery



Flying Fox Cutting before works



Flying Fox Cutting soil nail stabilisation works



Flying Fox Cutting shotcrete in place



Curve 3 culvert works



Smith's Bluff soil nail stabilisation works



Curve 2 culvert works