

Kempsey to Armidale Road Recovery

PROJECT UPDATE - November 2022



Increased load limits

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

A number of measures were put in place to ensure the safety of those taking advantage of this and to discourage loads exceeding the load limits from travelling on the road. A registration and induction process was introduced to monitor traffic movements and loads and to provide road users with **authorisation** to travel with increased loads.

The requirement of the use of UHF radios by road users during increased load limit travel was another way to improve safer travel for all.

We have also developed a manual based on geotechnical advice to provide a systematic approach to the safety inspections of the road which are carried out prior to the days when increased load limits are allowed.

Despite all these measures, we are aware that there are heavy vehicle movements which are not authorised or associated with construction works. Going forward, contractors have been directed to **stop these vehicles and direct them off the road**.

Load limits and vehicle length restrictions

Everyone is reminded that:

1. Access for increased load limits occurs on most Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week to the west and east of Flying Fox Cutting between 7am and 4.30pm.
2. **Vehicles greater than 4.3 tonne gvm are not permitted through Flying Fox Cutting due to safety and road structure concerns at either side of the current construction site.**
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 tonnes gvm and less than 20 tonnes gvm. Safety inspections of the road determines if travel is authorised.

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.



An unauthorised vehicle exceeding 4.3 tonne gvm limit

Changes to the traffic window

A traffic window from 9:00 am-9:30am has been in place on the project since May 2022.

Based on a request from the Lower Creek Local Area Committee, Council have agreed to change the traffic window from 9:00am-9:30am to 11:30am-12:15pm from Monday 21 November 2022 to coincide with the contractor's shift change.

We recognise that there may be cumulative traffic delay impacts from other roadworks within the Kempsey Shire Council and on Waterfall Way. As such, the following information is provided:

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 9:am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday to be included in the e-newsletter on the database or email: ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au
<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/posts/3185982328378728/>