

Kempsey to Armidale Road Recovery

PROJECT UPDATE - October 2022



Mail redirection service

In response to community concerns and the time it is taking some residents to travel to the Bellbrook Local Post Office (LPO), Council has been working with Australia Post to find another option for residents to access their mail.

Australia Post is unable to make deliveries along the project due to the half-hour traffic window through the work areas. This is due to the time it would take to deliver mail and return to the Kempsey Distribution Centre.

Australia Post has agreed to service a second location for postal deliveries to reduce travel times for residents. This will involve the setting up of letterboxes at a single location at Blackbird Flat for those residents wishing to take advantage of this option. The location is outside of the project works and further relocation of the letter boxes would not be necessary.

Council will provide the letterboxes at no cost to residents which will be large enough to securely hold parcels. The letterboxes will have an inbuilt lock and keys would be distributed to residents once they are set up. The mailboxes would be fixed to a concrete slab and an area to safely pull-off would be provided.

Residents who picked up their mail from Bellbrook LPO were given the opportunity to choose if they wanted to take advantage of this new service. Deliveries will be made three times per week as they are to the Bellbrook LPO.



Example of a parcel letterbox



Kempsey sale yards

Increased load limit schedule - access to Kempsey sale yards

Following negotiations with the contractor working at Smith's Bluff, Council has been able to provide access for increased load limits for primary producers to the Kempsey sale yards and for other residents to carry out other essential activities.

The contractor agreed to change their roster to enable this to happen.

Access for increased load limits is provided from midday to 4.30pm on the Wednesday prior to the cattle sales to enable cattle to be delivered in peak condition, on the Thursday of the sales and on the Friday, in case cattle that have not been sold need to be returned or cattle have been bought.

The increased load limits on the Thursday and Friday would apply from between 7am and 4.30pm. Other residents east of Flying Fox Cutting would also be able to take advantage of the increased limits on these dates and at these times.

This change to the increased load limits schedule commenced on Wednesday 21 September 2022 and means that access to all Armidale and Kempsey cattle sales is available to primary producers.

Access for increased load limits for other activities will also continue to be provided.

The forward schedule up to the start of December has been distributed to all those on the project email update database and is also on the project website.

Gates for emergency road closures

We have installed gates at the project boundary at Blackbird Flat. Gates have already been installed at the project boundary at Big Hill.

When the road was closed earlier this year, the barrier boards at Blackbird Flat were moved.

The gates are to provide a more visible barrier and deterrent to motorists when the road is closed for safety reasons. Advance warning signs have also been installed but will be laid back until needed.

Please note the gates will never be locked.



Emergency road closure gates at Blackbird Flat

UHF radio signage

Residents taking advantage of increased load limits must have a UHF radio tuned to Channel 17 when travelling to advise of which direction they are travelling in for safety reasons.

New blue and white signage has been installed to improve communications between residents accessing the increased load limits.



Typical UHF radio call-up signage now installed



Typical electronic messaging board

Electronic messaging boards

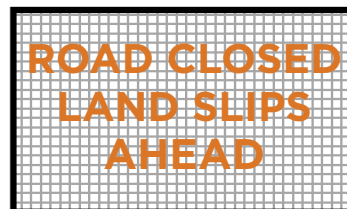
Electronic messaging (EMS) boards have been located inside the intersection of Waterfall Way and Kempsey Road near Big Hill, and also at Bellbrook for more than two years.

Residents and the construction team have expressed frustration that non-residents are ignoring the signage, particularly on weekends, increasing unwanted traffic loads on the road.

This is increasingly occurring at the moment as the weather gets warmer and will continue throughout the summer months.

As such, new messaging has been updated on the EMS boards. The new messaging is:

First frame:



Second frame:



All emergency services are exempt from this message and have been notified.

Major construction

Tenders for the main construction works are now being assessed. There are three contractors who met the tender requirements and a preferred contractor will be presented to Council's November 2022 meeting for consideration.

Contact us:

If you have any questions or would like to receive email updates, please contact us on **1300 136 833** (and press option 1) or email: council@armidale.nsw.gov.au

More information can be found on the project website which provides updated information on the condition of the road and other access arrangements.