

New Grafton Bridge

Project update - Pound Street rail bridge



Artist's impression of the new Pound Street rail bridge

The new Grafton Bridge will transform the entry to the riverside city and change the way motorists, pedestrians and cyclists move around. This update outlines progress being made on the \$240 million NSW Government project and upcoming work.



Motorists, pedestrians and cyclists to benefit from the new Grafton Bridge

Pound Street rail bridge

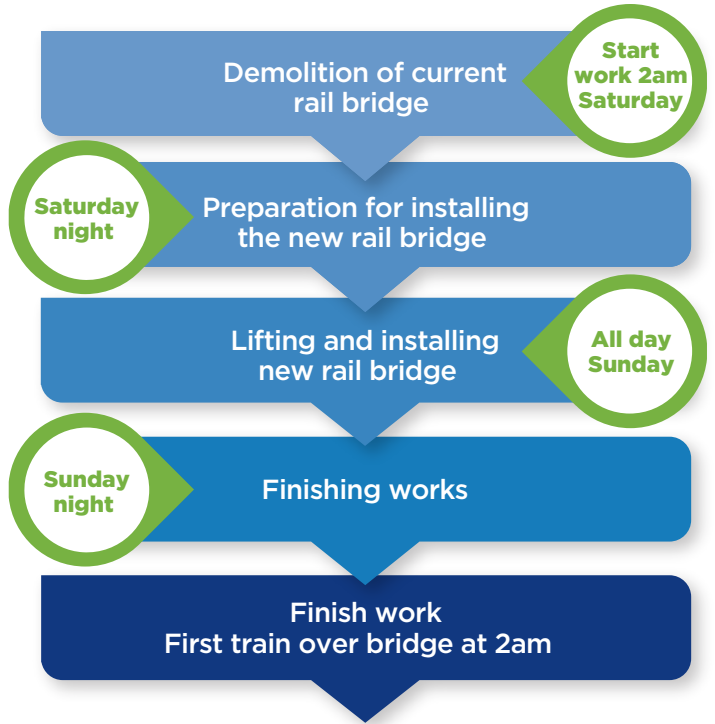
The Queen's Birthday long weekend (8 - 10 June) will be busy for the project team with the replacement of the rail bridge over Pound Street occurring. It is a huge task to demolish and rebuild a 42 metre long rail bridge in 72 hours. Months of planning has been carried out and every hour accounted for.

The tight timeframe is because the NSW rail lines only stop running once a year for three consecutive days to allow work to occur on the tracks. The trains will stop running at 2:15am on Saturday (8 June) morning and work will start straightaway. The trains will start running again at 2am on Tuesday (11 June).

The two 42 metre long steel trusses for the new rail bridge were delivered to site from Sydney in late March and have been assembled ready to be lifted into place. Recent preparation work for the long weekend have included construction of a pad for the 750-tonne crane which will lift the new bridge into place, assembling the crane and a test lift of the new rail bridge.

The work will be carried out in four stages, demolition of the current rail bridge, preparation for installing the new rail bridge, lifting and securing the new rail bridge and finishing works. The work will be noisy and light towers will be used at night. A timetable of the stages is shown on the right.

Timetable for work on bridge (8 - 10 June)



Rail bridge replacement to occur over the long weekend (8 - 10 June)



The new Pound Street rail bridge work site

A piece of rail history to be preserved

A historical mile marker on the existing rail bridge, which is one of the last remaining mile markers left on the railway line between Brisbane and Sydney, will be removed and preserved.

The marker identifies 433 mile distance to Sydney Central. These markers had many uses, including distance indicators, an aid to measure speed, particularly in the days of the steam engine and as a measure to calculate passenger fares and goods rates.

The 433 mile marker will be removed and handed over to the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) for it to be preserved. The project is working with ARTC to have this interesting piece of rail history reinstated on the new rail bridge.

Facts and figures about the new rail bridge over Pound Street

- The weight of the new rail bridge is 325 tonnes which is equivalent to 54 African elephants
- The current rail bridge has a clearance of four metres. The new bridge will have a clearance of 5.3 metres.
- About 70 cubic metres of concrete is in the deck of the new bridge

- A 750 tonne crane will lift the new bridge into place. The crane will take five days to assemble and will be delivered to site by about 57 semi-trailers
- There will be about 30 workers on site over the long weekend, including a demolition crew, concrete crew, crane and machine operators and engineers.

Bridge work

The new Grafton Bridge project is getting closer to spanning the Clarence River with more than half of its journey now complete. As of mid-May, 88 of the 176 pre-cast segments and all of the 14 super-T girders required for the bridge are in place, making up a 262-metre continuous span.

The community will continue to see major progress on the bridge every day as the span continues to grow, stretching over the Clarence from south to north.

Pier heads are being lifted into place at the northern side of the bridge in preparation for the rest of the pre-cast segments to be attached. The city's first traffic lights have also been installed at the intersection of Pound and Clarence streets, ready to be switched on when the bridge opens to traffic.

After the June long weekend, the 750-tonne crane used to lift the new Pound Street rail bridge into place will be moved to the northern bank to start lifting the remaining segments into place.



The historical mile marker on existing Pound Street bridge



Work progress on the new Grafton Bridge

Myth busting

Will the existing Grafton Bridge close for maintenance once the new bridge is opened?

We have no plans to close the existing Grafton Bridge as soon as the new bridge opens. We are however currently working with ARTC on a bridge maintenance plan for the old bridge. This plan will extend at least 40 years into the future and will identify the type of maintenance, when it is likely to occur, and the funding needed to deliver the work. It will include larger maintenance activities such as painting. Having two river crossings in Grafton will make it easier to carry out maintenance on the bridges in the future.

When we are planning to carry out major maintenance work on a critical bridge such as the existing Grafton Bridge we consult the community and businesses well ahead of the proposed time.

Upcoming activities

Key construction activities planned for the next three months include:

- completing the upgrade of Pound Street between Clarence and Villiers streets
- completing the upgrade of Iolanthe and Spring streets
- completing the placement of bridge segments
- starting work on the deck of the bridge including parapet installation
- starting to build the Gwydir Highway roundabout
- replacement of sections of concrete pavement at Villiers Street roundabout
- decommissioning of the pre-cast facility in Through Street.

For more information, please contact us:

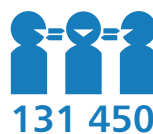
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