Fact Sheet

New Wilson River Bridge

Australian Government

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JANUARY 2015 | **OXLEY HIGHWAY TO KUNDABUNG PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE**

Construction activity on the Wilson River 2015 - 2017

The Australian and NSW governments are jointly funding the 23 kilometre Oxley Highway to Kundabung Pacific Highway upgrade. The project includes building a major bridge over the Wilson River about two kilometres east of the existing Wilson River bridge. This fact sheet explains the timing of this work and how it will affect river users.

Design

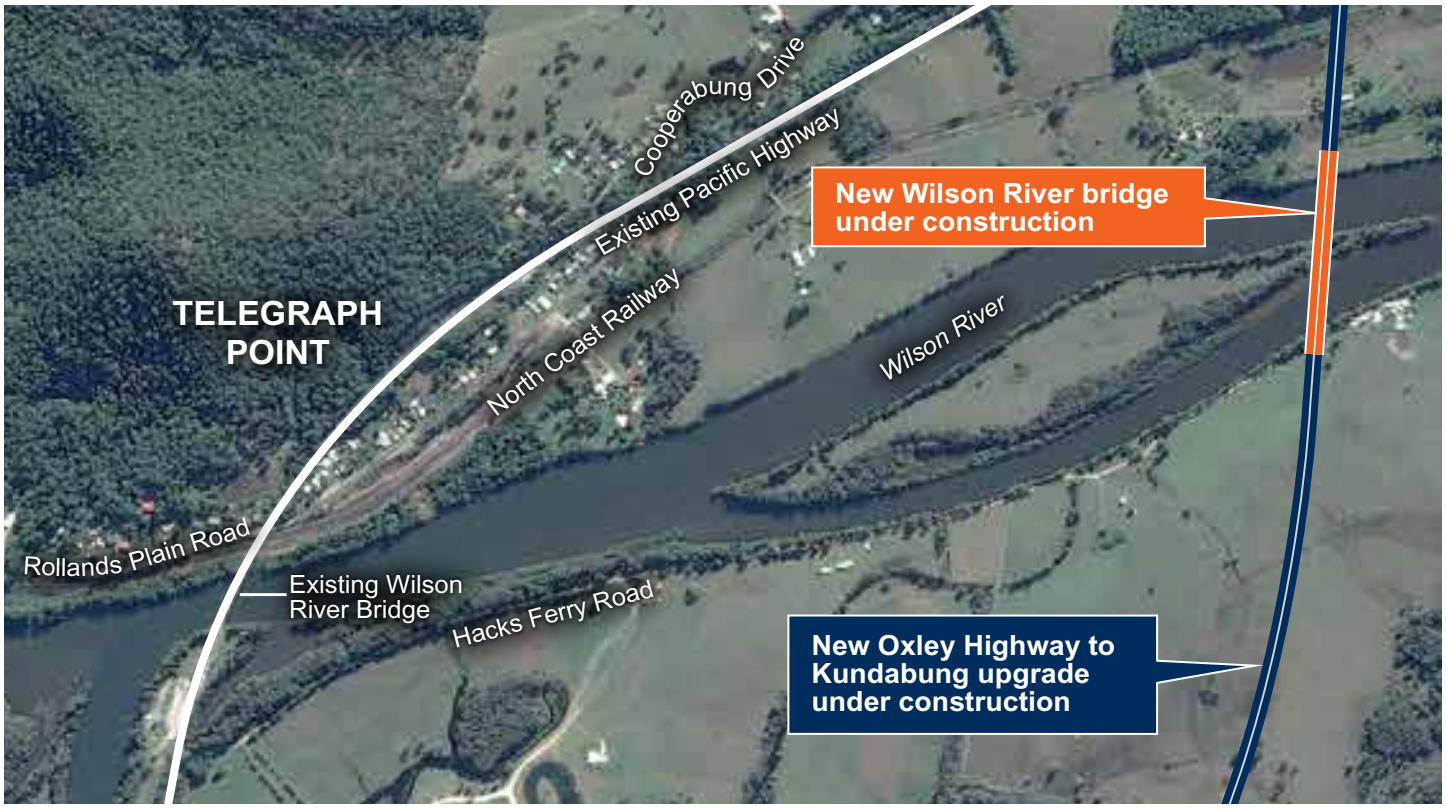
The new Wilson River bridge will be 524 metres long and have a navigation clearance height of six metres at the southern channel and eight metres at the northern channel. The bridge will consist of 14 supported spans placed onto 13 twin piers, eight of which will be in the river and one on Dalhunty Island.

The bridge spans between piers will be about 38 metres. Each span will comprise of 10 precast concrete super-T beams.

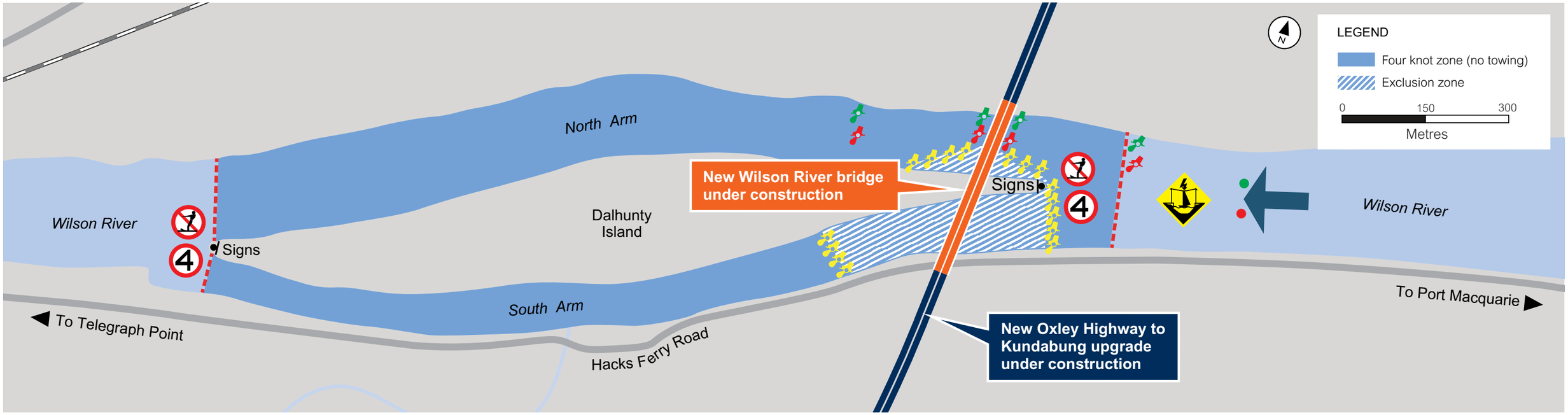
When complete, the bridge will carry two lanes of traffic in each direction separated by a central median barrier.

Location

The new Wilson River bridge will be built about two kilometres east of the existing bridge, over the eastern tip of Dalhunty Island.



Location map.



Marine access around the bridge construction site and temporary navigation restrictions.

Timing

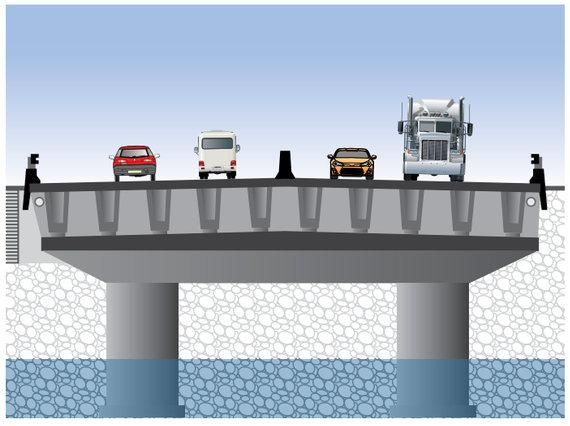
Building will start on the new Wilson River bridge in February 2015 and is due for completion in mid-2017, weather permitting.

Impact on river users

Marine access around the construction site will be maintained at all times, with some restrictions on river users. These will include:

- Closure of the southern channel around Dalhunty Island at the eastern tip of the island and restricted access from the western end
- The partial closure of the northern channel of Dalhunty Island
- Speed and towing restrictions near the construction area.

These restrictions are to ensure the safety of river users and workers and will be in place for the duration of the bridge construction.



Cross-section impression of the Wilson River bridge at the northern abutment.

Artist's impression of the new Wilson River bridge as viewed from the north eastern abutment looking south west.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can we still use the river during construction of the bridge?
Yes. A reduced speed limit of four knots and 'no towing' restrictions will be in place near the construction area. The south arm of the river will be closed either side of the building site, but a navigable channel will be maintained on the north arm at all times during construction. Refer to the above map for full details.

Are there any environmental impacts on the river from the building work?
A detailed environmental management plan has been developed for both the temporary work (cofferdam) and permanent work (new Wilson River bridge). These plans outline the controls that will be implemented to minimise the environmental impact from the work. Some of the controls will include:

- application of floating barriers around all work areas to contain and control the dispersion of silt in the river
- use of clean rock as fill material in the cofferdam
- installation of a physical barrier to contain any spills
- a strict regime of testing and monitoring to ensure that the controls are adequate and effective.

Will work be stopped during summer?
Work will stop for two weeks each year during the Christmas and New Year holiday period. While no building work will take place during these two weeks, the navigation and speed restrictions will remain in place due to the changed conditions on the river.

Will the bridge design change?
The bridge design is now finalised and will be built according to the specifications outlined in the Urban Design and Landscape Plan available on the Roads and Maritime Services website.

What will be the permanent speed limit on the river after the new bridge is built?
This has not been determined. Issues around safety will be considered and consultation will take place with river users before a permanent post-construction speed limit is decided.

Can I get a job working on the project?
Lend Lease will hire different roles at various stages throughout the life of the project. To enquire about working on the project send your expression of interest along with a current resume to **contactoh2ku@lendlease.com**

How the bridge will be built

A temporary working platform (cofferdam) will be built in the Wilson River to assist with building the bridge.

The cofferdam will be built between the southern bank of the Wilson River to the southern side of Dalhunty Island. Two additional cofferdams will be built, one from the northern bank of the Wilson River and one from the northern side of Dalhunty Island.

A navigable channel will be maintained at all times between the cofferdams through the northern channel of Dalhunty Island.

The majority of building activity will be carried out from the cofferdams using cranes. Some activity will be conducted from barges operating on the river.

Construction activity to be carried out on the river will include drilling, piling, pier construction, placement of concrete beams and finishing work.

What is a Cofferdam?

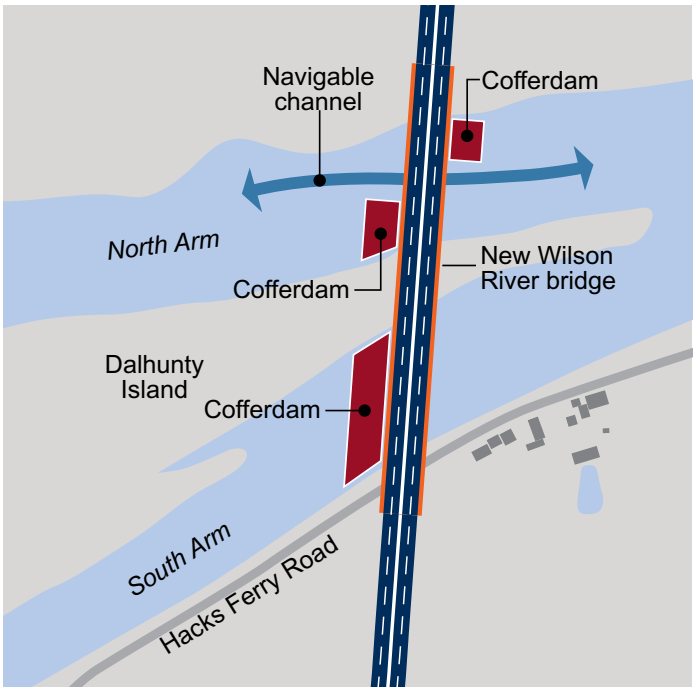
A cofferdam is a structure built to provide a dry working environment above the water's surface. It is made of large steel plates called sheet piles that are vibrated into the bed of the river.

Material such as crushed rock is placed between the sheet piles and compacted to make a solid work platform above the water. At completion of the project the cofferdam will be removed.

Impact on flooding during construction

The cofferdam is designed to sit just above the high tide level. This ensures that in the event of a flood, water will flow over the top of the structure rather than backing up and increasing inundation upstream.

A detailed hydrological assessment of the impact of the cofferdam has been completed. The study modelled the impact in the event of five, 20, 50 and 100 year flood events. The study, based on historical records and survey data, found no increased impact on residential properties in the area as a result of the cofferdam.



Location of cofferdams during construction.

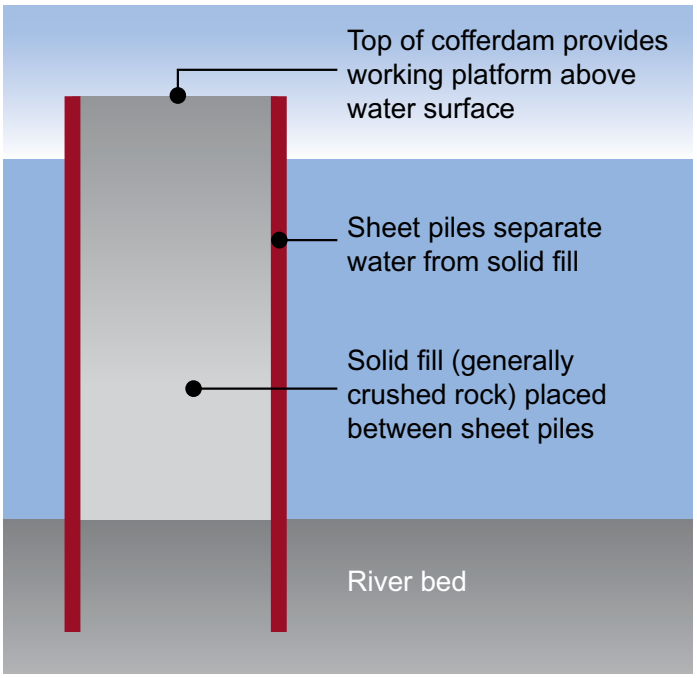


Diagram of a simple cofferdam similar to the ones that will be built in the Wilson River.

For further enquiries contact the Community Relations Teams

1800 154 724 (toll free) - Press 1 for Oxley Highway to Kundabung

contactOH2Ku@lendlease.com