Warren Street partial opening

We’re making huge strides in the upgrade of Warren Street.

On Monday 29 July, we opened the section of the road between the Murray Valley Highway and the new roundabout near Campaspe Esplanade, providing local residents, businesses and visitors to the Echuca Cemetery with a more direct route in and out of the area.

The remaining section between the new roundabout and Bolton Street will remain closed while we finish construction. Works in this section are on track to be completed in late 2019.

Until that time, motorists will need to continue using the signed detours to reach the Echuca CBD, port or river areas.

Speaking of progress, since March we’ve lifted all 144 beams into place on the flood relief bridges, and we recently completed installing the bridge rails, approach slabs and wearing courses.

The concrete approach slabs will provide a smooth transition between the road pavement and bridge, and the wearing courses are hard-wearing, high-friction layers that protect and waterproof the road pavement underneath.

Image above: Your new Warren Street, looking west towards Murray Valley Highway

Key stats

- 144 concrete beams have been lifted into place
- 12,000 tonnes of rock have been placed for scour protection
- 7,000 tonnes of asphalt have been laid to date
- The combined weight of the approach slabs is 350 tonnes
- The total length of the wire rope safety barrier along Warren Street is 960m

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Open air classrooms inspire the next generation

Over the last few months, students from St Joseph’s College and Shepparton’s Goulburn Valley Grammar School toured Stage 2 of the project, gaining valuable insight into this once-in-a-generation infrastructure project, and how the various environmental, sustainability, engineering, community and construction considerations are managed.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions throughout the tours, expressing a high level of engagement and curiosity which seriously impressed our crew!

We’re looking forward to continuing our partnerships with local schools to continue inspiring the next generation of engineers.

Bridge lessons in the classroom

In May, we visited Year 3 and 4 students at Echuca East Primary School to teach them about the Echuca-Moama Bridge Project, as part of their curriculum.

During our first session, we focused on the importance of teamwork and the students worked eagerly together in a production line making show bags to take home to their families.

The students had a lot of fun discovering that it takes many different skills from different people to achieve a good outcome.

During the visit, the students were also fascinated to learn from Veronica Groat from Strathallan Family Landcare, who is also a member of the Project’s Environmental Reference Group.

Veronica joined us to talk about habitat nest boxes that can be used to protect wildlife potentially affected by the removal of trees, and the students were also set with the challenge of trying to design and construct a bridge of their own.

When we joined the students again in June to see their creations, we were thrilled to see that they had been inspired by the project team and Veronica.

They’ve embarked on their own plans to protect our local wildlife and environment by making their own habitat nest boxes, which they’ll be installing in trees near the Murray River.

We’ve also laid asphalt along the length of Warren Street, from the Murray Valley Highway to the new roundabout near Campaspe Esplanade.

The new asphalt and concrete walking and cycling path is under construction. Using concrete provides a stronger surface in lower lying areas that are more likely to be affected by flooding, while the asphalt is better suited to higher areas.

We’ve installed wire rope barriers along the roadsides and completed line-marking to make your travel safer.

Works to build the new service roads for Warren Street residents are continuing, and include construction of footpaths, kerb and channel, and installation of new drainage.

Budding bridge builders show off their talents
Update on Stages 3 and 4

Construction on your vital second river crossing, which will better link Victoria and NSW, is now a step closer after we received Tenders from three shortlisted contractors.

We're now going through an extensive review process, with an announcement about the successful contractor expected later this year.

Preparations are also continuing for Stage 4 of the Echuca-Moama Bridge Project.

Stage 4 is being managed by Roads and Maritime Services in NSW and will involve upgrading the Moama intersection to connect the Cobb Highway at Perricoota Road in Moama to the new Murray River bridge.

The upgrade works will include new traffic signals at the intersection of Cobb Highway/Perricoota Road/Francis Street, and the new intersection at Cobb Highway/Meninya Street.

Tenders were received in June and the contract is due to be awarded shortly. Construction on Stage 4 is anticipated to start later this year and take up to 18 months to complete.