

Final earthworks, approaches to \$15.3m Warroo Bridge begin

Final earthworks and construction of the road approaches to the new Warroo Bridge will start on Monday, 9 March, putting the new \$15.3 million bridge on track to be open to traffic in mid-2026, weather-permitting.

Lead contractor Abergeldie demolished from the site in December 2025 following the completion of their bridge construction activities, a Transport for NSW spokesperson said.

Forbes Shire Council carried out the preliminary earthworks for the project and will deliver the final earthworks and pavement construction on behalf of Transport for NSW.

Over the next 12 weeks - weather permitting - they will complete earthworks including the bridge batter slopes and table drains.

The project includes extending two culverts on Warroo Bridge Road and Lachlan Valley Way; and a minor upgrade of the

intersection of Warroo Bridge Road and Lachlan Valley Way.

They will also place a bitumen seal on the bridge and road approaches; construct pavement to tie-in the approach embankments to the new bridge; install guard rails on the bridge approaches and revegetate the riverbank and temporary access tracks.

Crews will be working beside Warroo Bridge Road on both sides of the Lachlan River and at the intersection of Warroo Bridge Road and Lachlan Valley Way.

Work hours will be 7am to 6pm from Monday to Friday, with no work on weekends or public holidays.

Following the final earthworks and pavement construction, the bridge will be opened to traffic before the last stage of the project, the demolition of the existing bridge, takes place later in the year.



Pharmacy interns return to important role in central west

Passion for community pharmacy, and a desire to learn, has enticed a group of pharmacy interns to the New South Wales central west for the next chapter of their professional development.

New Zealand university graduates Aisling Casey (Life Pharmacy Forbes) and Zandra Hinton (Parkes Pharmacy) have joined Forbes local Sami Duggan (Flannery's Pharmacy) in living and working in Parkes and Forbes for their intern year.

"I came back to Forbes because pharmacists play such an important role in small rural communities," former Red Bend Catholic College student, turned Pharmacy intern, Sami Duggan said.

"People rely on their local pharmacist not just for medicines, but for advice, support, and sometimes even just a friendly chat.

"Having grown up here, it means a lot to be able to give back to the community.

"I'd encourage other healthcare students to give regional practice a go, and to be open to the experience.



Pharmacy graduates (L-R) Zandra Hinton (Parkes Pharmacy), Aisling Casey (Life Pharmacy Forbes) and Sami Duggan (Flannery's Pharmacy) have joined LPG for their intern year.

"Working in rural communities allows you to build strong relationships with patients and be part of their healthcare journey in a really meaningful way.

"You don't fully realise the value of working in a rural community until you spend time there yourself - the trust people place in you, the sense of connection, and the op-

portunity to make a genuine difference is incredibly rewarding, both professionally and personally."

Aisling and Zandra were among a group of interns who spent time in NSW and the ACT in 2025, as part of the Life Pharmacy Group (LPG) placement program which provides university students with a practical understanding of working in an Australian community pharmacy.

"I was fortunate to be chosen for the LPG New Zealand Pharmacy student placement, and I got to experience eight of LPG's pharmacies, which was an amazing experience," pharmacy intern Aisling Casey said.

"I was super impressed with the advancements in pharmacy practice in Australia, but more importantly LPG's focus on patient-centred care, which aligns with my personal values of what pharmacy care should look like."

"As for Forbes, I was here in May of last year, and even though I was only in Forbes for a couple of days, the staff at both Life Pharmacy Forbes and Flannery's Pharmacy

made me feel so welcome, and I absolutely loved the community of Forbes, so had to come back!"

Partner at Flannery's and Life Pharmacies, Sarah Hazell, says the LPG placement program is having great success in encouraging the next generation of pharmacists to live in rural Australia.

"Our university placement program is about opening students' eyes to what community pharmacy really looks like in rural Australia," Pharmacist Sarah Hazell said.

"When students experience the level of patient care, trust and impact we have day to day, they're often surprised by how rewarding it is.

"Encouraging the next generation to explore regional pharmacy is critical not just for the future of the profession, but for the communities that rely on it.

"Aisling, Zandra and Sami are already making their mark in our stores.

"They're a wonderful example of the talent coming through our industry, and we're delighted to welcome them to LPG."



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