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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

July/August 2026



Thomas Road Bridge blinding and underpass structures.

Building momentum across the Tonkin Highway Extension and Thomas Road Upgrade Project

In preparation for the wetter months, the Project team has prioritised earthworks and drainage activities across the site to support ongoing construction and to assist in managing weather-related impacts. These works included the placement of fill material to raise construction areas above the water-soaked areas and the construction of temporary and permanent drainage systems, helping to improve water management and site access.



Drainage installed below the future Tonkin Highway.

While the project is well prepared, some construction works remain dependent on suitable weather conditions, including concrete pours and

asphalting, which can be affected by rainfall, moisture and temperature.

Where necessary, the project team may adjust the timing of certain activities during periods of prolonged or heavy rainfall to maintain safety for both the community and workforce.

What's happening now?

Current activities across the project area include:

- Clearing and ground preparation works.
- Bulk earthworks, including the placement, shaping, and compaction of materials.
- Construction of retaining walls and installation of drainage infrastructure, including rock pitching and culverts.
- Pavement construction works, including subgrade preparation and subbase placement.
- Utility works, including the installation of conduits and the relocation and protection of existing services.

Tonkin Highway and Thomas Road

Western Power transmission line relocation enabling works are now underway on Thomas Road, between Kargotich Road and east of Wungong South Road. These works will be undertaken in stages and are expected to be completed by late-2026. Staging these works allows activities to be completed efficiently while minimising disruption to the community.

Pedestrian underpass construction is progressing well, with works underway on four of the five underpasses that will provide safe connections for pedestrians and cyclists at the new Thomas Road and Tonkin Highway interchange.

Following completion of underpass backfill works in the northeast section of the interchange, construction will progress on the permanent southbound lanes of Tonkin Highway.

To facilitate these works, a weekend closure of Tonkin Highway southbound will be required between Rowley Road and Thomas Road. This closure will allow crews to complete the road tie-ins in preparation for permanent asphalt surfacing.

During this closure, southbound traffic will be detoured via Armadale Road, connecting to either Nicholson Road or South Western Highway through to Thomas Road. Further details including timings will be available closer to the time.

The new Tonkin Highway southbound lanes are a key milestone for the project and will play an important role in maintaining traffic flow during future construction activities, including the delivery of the new Thomas Road bridge over Tonkin Highway.

Lane modification works are progressing at the eastern end of Thomas Road, with a small section of the existing noise wall removed to accommodate the road widening works.

A wall will be constructed along the new shared path alignment to support the fill material being placed to raise the road level. The noise wall panels that have been removed from this location are planned to be reused across the project area.

Abernethy Road and Timbrel Road Intersection

Works are continuing to progress at the Abernethy Road and Timbrel Road (formerly Hopkinson Road) intersection, with permanent drainage infrastructure now installed and connected beneath the new road alignment. As part of these works, the existing bridge on the northern side of the intersection has been removed.



Drainage installed along Abernethy Road and bridge blinding.

The blinding concrete layer has now been poured for the northern abutment of the Tonkin Highway bridge over Abernethy Road, which will support future foundation works. Embankment fill is also continuing on the bridge approaches, with material being placed and compacted to form the ramps that will connect to the future bridge.

Orton Road to Scott Road

A section of Orton Road between Timbrel Road and Bullock Drive, is temporarily closed until September 2026 to enable the delivery of key construction works, including the new connection between Orton Road and Timbrel Road and the approach west of the new Orton Road and Tonkin Highway intersection.

The works include drainage upgrades and road construction activities like asphaltting. The construction of retaining walls and screen walls will also involve the Project's first piling activities, which are required to support the installation of screen walls.

Piling is a construction method that involves installing long structural elements, known as piles, deep into the ground to form a strong and stable

foundation. These piles form a critical part of a structure's foundation, transferring loads deep into the ground to provide long-term stability, durability and resilience under operational and environmental conditions.

These works represent an important milestone for the Project and will support the safe and efficient delivery of the new Orton Road and Tonkin Highway intersection, while also facilitating future traffic movements during future stages of construction.

Ground improvement works are continuing at the Bishop Road interchange, supporting construction of the new bridge over Bishop Road and the freight rail corridor. This includes the placement of blinding concrete, providing a clean, level working surface for the installation of reinforcement and the construction of structural elements, including foundations, piers and abutments for the bridges.

Works are also underway on the new pedestrian and cyclist underpass, with the base slab currently being poured ahead of the precast concrete structures being installed later this year.

Mundijong Road to South Western Highway

Early in the project, the design of the Mundijong Road and Tonkin Highway intersection was modified, moving it north from its original alignment. This adjustment allowed additional vegetation to be retained to the south and minimising impacts to the existing road network.

Over the last few months, fill material has been imported to the new Tonkin Highway and Mundijong Road roundabout. This material is being used to raise the road level above the surrounding water table to improve drainage and long-term road performance.

Additional fill material is required over the existing Mundijong Road alignment to reach final levels. To safely undertake these works, Mundijong Road is closed between Pure Steel Lane and Adonis Street until December 2026.



Mundijong Road and Tonkin Highway intersection.

We understand that road closures can be disruptive, and by delivering these works within a single closure will reduce the need for multiple closures and disruptions to Mundijong Road.

Construction of the new Tonkin Highway and South Western Highway intersection is progressing well, with a section of the new alignment ready for asphalt. Once asphalt works are complete, the team will install drainage lids, kerbing, line marking and other finishing activities to prepare the road for traffic. Traffic is expected to switch onto the new alignment in August 2026, enabling construction to commence on the future southbound lanes, marking another key milestone in the delivery of the project.



South Western Highway and Tonkin Highway roundabout.

Further information

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