



Project update

June 2026

Kempsey-Armidale Road
Restoration Project



RAMPING UP FOR MAJOR RESTORATION WORKS

The project is moving steadily towards the next major milestone, with the tender evaluation process now well underway. Three shortlisted tenderers were invited to participate, and tenders received are currently being assessed, with contract award expected in the second half of the year.

The evaluation committee is reviewing technical and commercial aspects of the tenders, supported by the project team conducting detailed document reviews, gaining clarification on the tenderers' bids. Once this confidential procurement phase is complete, we will be able to share more information about the contract award and expected construction start dates.

Blackbird Flat and Flying Fox Cutting works complete

Road and drainage improvements delivered through the NSW Government Fixing Local Roads program are now complete at Blackbird Flat and Flying Fox Cutting.

The completed works include extensions to the sealed road on both sides of Blackbird Flat, as well as additional road sealing and drainage improvements at Flying Fox Cutting. These upgrades will help improve road resilience and support safer travel conditions for the community. Thank you to residents for your patience and understanding while these works were carried out.



Culvert and remediation work at Flying Fox Cutting

Preparing for construction

While the tender process continues, work is progressing behind the scenes to ensure the successful contractor can mobilise and begin work as quickly as possible following contract award. Current activities include:



Undertaking monthly inspections of the project corridor, with additional inspections following significant rainfall events.



Identifying and securing sources of materials required for the project.



Completing survey work to inform detailed design and construction planning.



Finalising lease and access agreements with landowners where construction activities will occur.



Mobilising the necessary management plans and Council resources to deliver this important project.

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**ROAD
CLOSED**

Kempsey to Armidale Road remains closed to non-residents and non-essential services.

The Kempsey to Armidale Road between Big Hill and Blackbird Flat (east of Lower Creek) remains closed to the public. Access continues to be available for residents, their visitors, essential service providers and emergency services.

The closure is necessary to protect the stability of the road and maintain safe access for those who rely on it.

Road closures during construction



During the main restoration works there will be ongoing closures to enable the work to be completed safely and efficiently. We will continue working directly with affected residents to understand access requirements and minimise disruption wherever possible.

If you live within the project area and have questions about current or future access arrangements, please contact the project information line on 1300 136 833 or email K2Aproject@armidale.nsw.gov.au.