



Transport for NSW FAQs

25 OCTOBER 2019

Emergency closure of Bunnerungee Bridge

Why is the highway closed at Bunnerungee Bridge?

A structural problem has been identified following a routine bridge inspection at Bunnerungee Bridge, 65 kilometres north of Wentworth on the Silver City Highway.

How long is the bridge expected to be closed?

A specialist Road and Maritime Services/ Transport for NSW bridge team is investigating and assessing the bridge while working on a solution. It is not yet known how long the repairs will take. Roads and Maritime Services will open the bridge as soon as it is safe to do so. The community will be kept informed as more information is available.

What is the detour route?

Road users will be detoured from Broken Hill to Wilcannia on the Barrier Highway, onto the Cobb Highway to Hay, then Sturt Highway to Wentworth while the Silver City Highway is closed at this location.

The distance between Broken Hill and Wentworth on the Silver City Highway is 267 kilometres. The detour between the towns via the detour route is 963 kilometres, adding an extra nine hours to journeys. Motorists are advised to take this into consideration when planning their journey.

Why has this route been chosen?

Despite adding nine hours to journeys, the detour is the most suitable route around Bunnerungee Bridge when one considers road condition and communications. It is also a nominated heavy vehicle route, accessible by all vehicle types.

There are two local road light vehicle alternatives around the bridge – via Anabranche and Pooncarie, adding 2½ and almost 4 hours respectively. However, due to no mobile phone coverage, narrow widths and unsealed road conditions, motorists are advised it would be safer to take the detour along the State roads.

Media contact: (02) 9462 6299

Local road alternatives – suitable for light vehicles only.

Anabranch Road

<https://goo.gl/maps/2t5ykDcionYu5sUm7>

Pooncarie Road

<https://goo.gl/maps/GNxQNmdkTWwfqx8T9>

Access exemptions for Emergency Vehicles

Vehicle access will be provided past the Bunnerungee Bridge site on the Silver City Highway for Emergency Services only. Emergency services staff are to approach traffic controllers at the road closure points to be escorted through the site.

Are there any sections of the detour route that are not heavy vehicle compliant?

Hay Bridge, located over the Murrumbidgee River on the Cobb Highway at Hay, is not an approved B-triple or AB-triple vehicle structure. However, Roads and Maritime will permit these vehicles to access the bridge while the detour is in effect. Traffic lights will guide vehicles over the bridge, one vehicle at a time under reduced speed limits, to reduce impacts.

What services are available on the detour route?

Motorists are advised the detour route is through remote areas of NSW with limited phone reception, fuel stops, accommodation options and facilities.

Larger centres on the detour route include:

- Broken Hill – 13 petrol stations
- Wilcannia – 3 petrol stations
- Ivanhoe – 2 petrol stations
- Hay – 2 petrol stations
- Balranald – 5 petrol stations
- Wentworth – 1 petrol station

Limited accommodation options are available, particularly between the towns of Wilcannia and Hay. Driving tired is the second biggest killer on NSW roads after speeding, so it's important to plan your journey and take regular breaks.

A map of all rest areas in NSW can be found at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/using-roads/trip-information/rest-areas/map.

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How are drivers on Silver City Highway being alerted to the closure of Bunnerungee Bridge?

Traffic controllers are located at the bridge to ensure vehicles cannot cross the bridge. Further traffic control is situated at the Silver City Highway intersections with Pomona Rd at Wentworth and Kanandah Road at Broken Hill, directing all traffic and providing information regarding the detour route via the Cobb Highway.

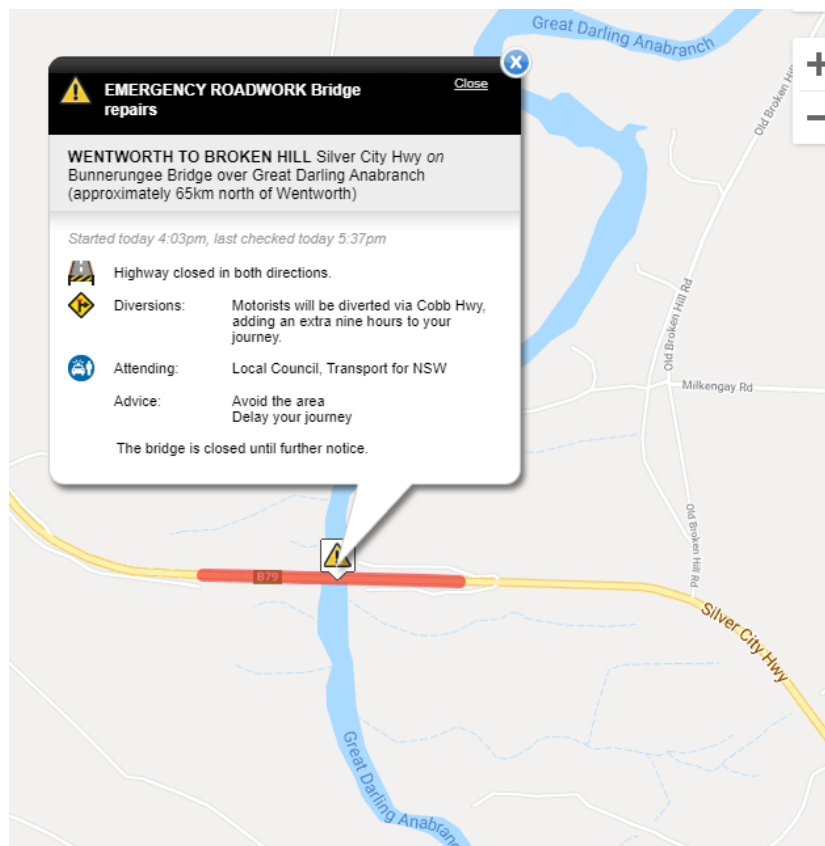
Three electronic message signs have been erected in Victoria on the Calder and Sturt highways and on the southern side of Abbotsford Bridge.

Four electronic signs have been erected at Hay in NSW on the Cobb, Sturt and Mid Western highways, while a further electronic sign is being installed at the intersection of the Barrier and Cobb highways facing eastbound traffic from Cobar. All signs advise motorists to detour via the Cobb Highway as the Silver City Highway at Wentworth is closed.

How do I find the most up-to-date information?

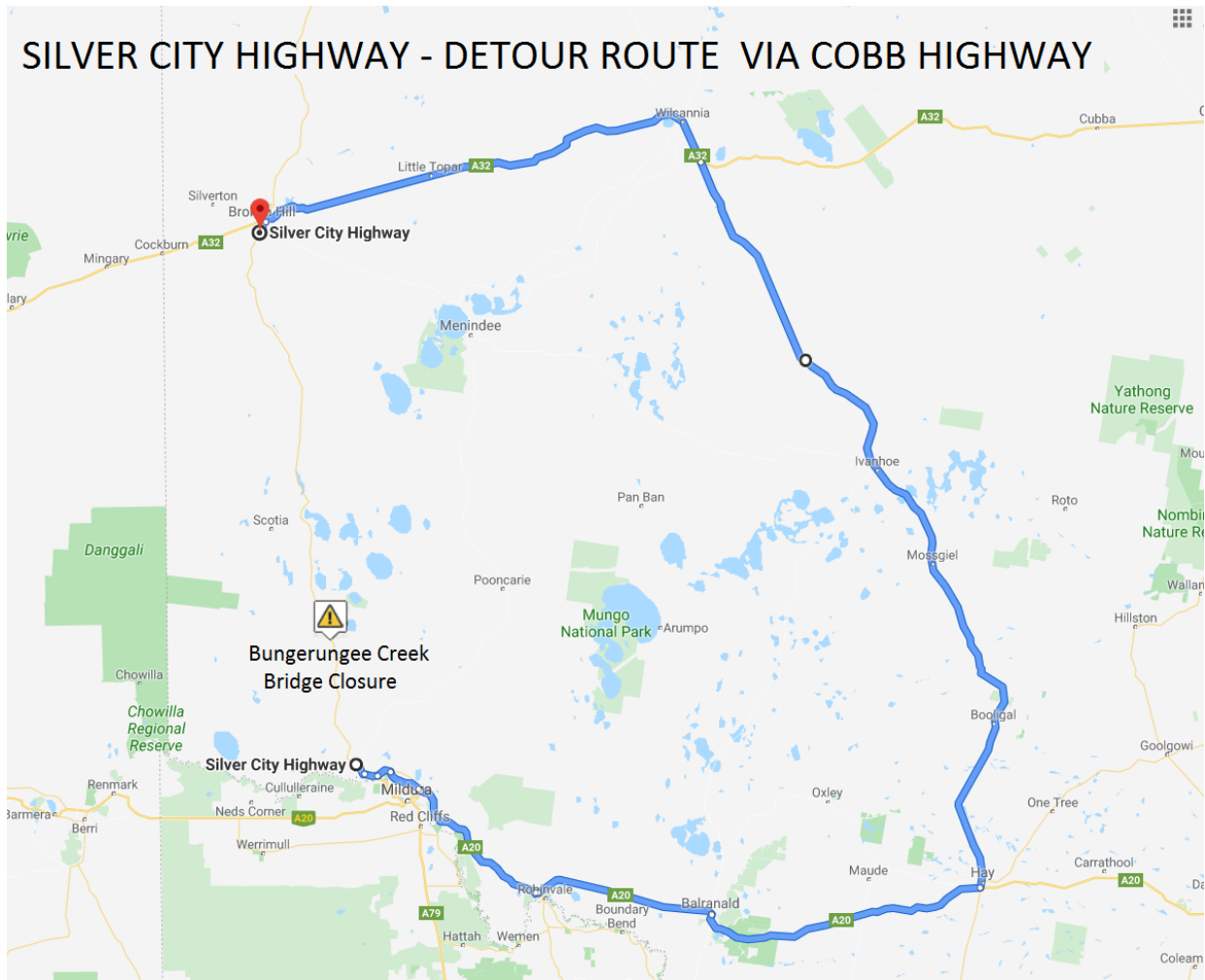
For the latest traffic updates download the Live Traffic NSW App, visit livetraffic.com or call 132 701.

Customers seeking information about impacts to public transport services and schedules should contact TrainLink at 132 232.



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SILVER CITY HIGHWAY - DETOUR ROUTE VIA COBB HIGHWAY



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