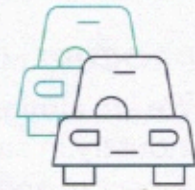


# Maria River Road

## Project update

December 2024



**Maria River Road provides an important connection between Port Macquarie and Crescent Head communities as well as servicing businesses and residents living along and off the road.**

Plans to upgrade approximately 24km of unsealed road, which crosses both Kempsey Shire Council (KSC) and Port Macquarie Hastings Council (PMHC) regions, are progressing.

Over the last few months, we have completed several environmental assessments to support the development applications (DA) for both Council areas.

An overview of current and upcoming activities along with the project timeline have been summarised below. For details of all work to date please refer to the project website:

[pmhc.nsw.gov.au/maria-river-road](https://pmhc.nsw.gov.au/maria-river-road)

### Funding

Port Macquarie Hastings Council and Kempsey Shire Council have partnered to deliver this project made possible with \$24.3 Million in funding from the NSW and Australian Governments.





## DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

DAs for both Councils are now under assessment, with the KSC DA currently on public exhibition.

## PROCUREMENT & TENDERING

We are aiming to release a call for Expressions of Interest from the construction industry in early 2025. This is the first part of the formal procurement process. We expect to appoint a contractor by mid-year, provided development consent is achieved.

## REDUCED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Reducing the project's environmental footprint has been an important step in meeting Resilience and Hazards SEPP (State Environmental Planning Policy) requirements. The proposed vegetation removal area has been reduced by 50% through road design amendment to lower environmental impacts; numerous other control and mitigation measures are proposed as part of the works.

## OFFSET PLANTING

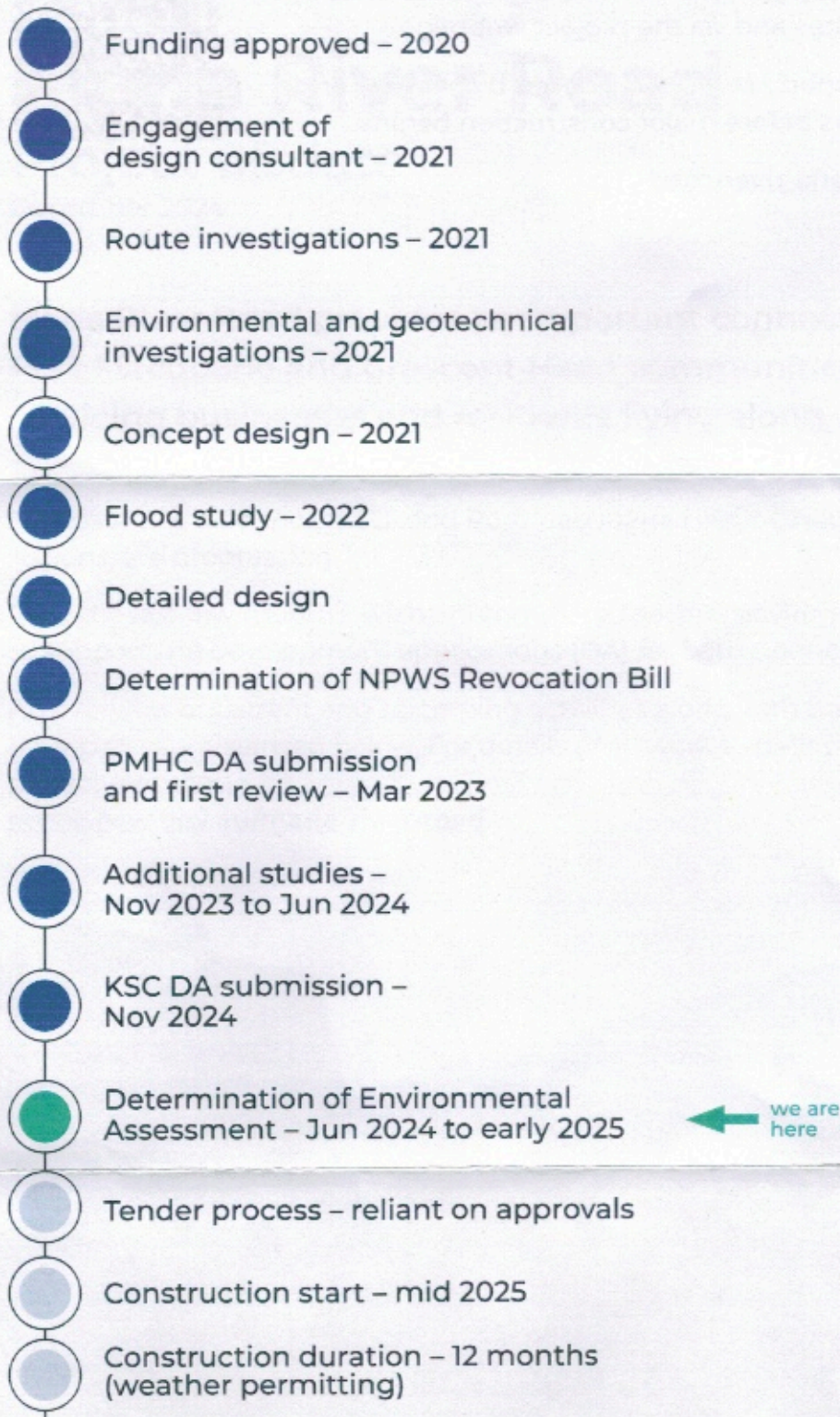
Offset planting is a way to reduce the environmental impact of development by restoring or improving native habitat that is lost or disturbed. Offset planting often requires planting more trees or vegetation than were removed.

For this project it is proposed that 2,820m<sup>2</sup> of koala habitat will be created to offset the 1,410m<sup>2</sup> of land impacted by the project. We are working with NPWS and Koala Conservation Australia on local sites for offset planting along with tree types, weed management and restoration of disturbed habitat.





## TIMELINE



Australian Government



NSW  
GOVERNMENT



KEMPSEY  
Shire Council



PORT MACQUARIE  
HASTINGS COUNCIL



## STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We will continue to keep you informed at major milestones through project updates and via the project webpage.

We will work with property owners, residents, businesses, and other key stakeholders before major construction begins.

[pmhc.nsw.gov.au/maria-river-road](http://pmhc.nsw.gov.au/maria-river-road)



## Port Macquarie Hastings Council

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