



Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway Project - NSW

Abigroup Contractors was recently contracted to design, construct and then maintain the NSW section of the Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway. The NSW contract is for 14.7 kilometres of four-lane freeway.

In February 2005, the Roads and Traffic Authority commissioned Abigroup to commence works on the NSW section, Ettamogah to the Murray River, of the Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway Project.

The Freeway is to be constructed under two separate contracts managed by RTA and VicRoads in close liaison. Abigroup has been engaged to design and construct both sections of the freeway in NSW and Victoria.

What happens next?

Over the coming months Abigroup will commence a variety of works including:

- Commence detailed design of the project.
- Establish a site office, including a community display centre, over the coming months.
- Continue to relocate utilities such as water, gas and electricity along the route.
- Collect site survey, geotechnical and other data in the local area for use in the development of the detailed design.
- Re-establish a community liaison group(s).
- Prepare construction management plans to be forwarded to the NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources for approval.

The RTA will also continue to secure the freeway easement in the coming weeks.

When will construction in NSW begin?

Construction of the freeway in NSW will commence in mid 2005. However, preparatory works, such as the establishment of construction compounds, site surveys and community consultation, will start in the coming weeks and months.

When will the freeway open?

The NSW and Victorian sections of the project are both due for completion in mid-2007. The entire route will then be opened to traffic.

NSW project features

- The 14.7 kilometre freeway with two lanes in each direction will be separated by a median.
- Full four-way diamond interchanges at Thurgoona Drive, Borella Road and Bridge Street (allowing entry and exit from both directions).
- Half-diamond interchanges at Billy Hughes Bridge and Corrys Hill (allowing exit and entry from only one direction).
- Bridges at both Fallon and North streets over the Main Southern Railway line and the freeway.
- A shared pedestrian/cycle path will be created from Thurgoona Drive to the Albury CBD.
- Extensive urban design features and landscaping along the freeway corridor, including new parks in East Albury and South Albury.

How will I get information on traffic changes during construction?

Local advertisements, household notifications and roadside signage will ensure road users and residents are informed of any changes to traffic conditions needed during construction activities.

Abigroup will work closely with AlburyCity and other government agencies to develop a traffic management plan for the project. This plan will detail the work and how it will minimise disruption to road users. Importantly, access for emergency services will be retained at all times.

The use of local roads by heavy vehicle traffic during construction will be restricted. More information will be provided to the community once construction activities start.

What noise mitigation measures are proposed?

Abigroup will proceed with the detailed design of noise mitigation measures for those locations where they are required. Noise will be managed by a range of measures including: making best use of natural topography, the selection of pavement types, the construction of earth mounds and sound barriers, and the possible treatment of individual buildings.

The location, height and type of noise walls and earth mounds will be presented to the community as part of the urban design and landscaping for the NSW section of the freeway. Community discussion on the proposed noise management measures is welcome and more information will be provided by the contractor, Abigroup, over the coming months.

The freeway must comply with environmental criteria for road traffic noise set by the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation. There are target noise levels for the level of

daytime and night-time operational noise that can be received by the residents and businesses next to the freeway. These goals are referred to in the project's Conditions of Approval, issued by the then NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning. These conditions can be examined at the Hume Freeway project office at Level 1, 429 Swift Street, Albury.

What are the construction hours?

Construction activities will be Monday to Friday from 7am to 6pm, and Saturday from 8am to 1pm.

Works outside these hours may occur with the permission of the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation. This work may be required from time to time. Potentially affected residents will be notified in advance if works outside normal times are required.

Will noise and vibration be monitored?

Noise and vibration monitoring is a normal part of the construction and operation of the freeway. Regular monitoring will occur and results compared to predicted noise levels, to ensure the activity is conforming to the project's Conditions of Approval. If noise levels exceed what was predicted, consideration will be given to measures to manage noise.

Property surveys will be conducted within 50 metres of the route and other sensitive areas in upcoming months. This occurs on all major projects to record the condition of each building and will assist with any assessment of damage should it occur.

What is being done to protect air quality?

Several measures will be used during construction to limit dust. These include:

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- Regular watering of earthworks and stockpiles.
 - Covering construction loads entering and exiting the site.
 - Methods to remove mud and dust from the tyres of construction vehicles leaving major construction sites.
 - Progressive rehabilitation of exposed areas by replanting.

When the freeway is opened to traffic many cars and trucks will no longer need to use the current Hume Highway with its slow travel times, traffic lights and right angle bends. For through traffic, the removal of this stop/starting means there will be less fuel consumed and less vehicle emissions. In addition, fuel standards and vehicle emission systems are improving each year. For more information see the project office for an air quality fact sheet.

How are local agencies involved in the project?

Various government agencies will be involved with a range of project matters including traffic management and environmental protection. Representatives will meet regularly with the RTA and Abigroup to examine key issues.

Community liaison

Liaison with the community during detailed design and construction of the Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway Project is an integral part of the project.

A permanent display centre will be opened to enable residents to keep up to date with project, as it develops. The centre will have copies of designs and plans and other relevant information. Website information will also be posted as the project progresses.

Regular advertisements and local (letterbox) notifications will be provided to advise residents and businesses of progress and temporary traffic management arrangements. Newsletters will also be circulated widely to the community.

A community liaison group (CLG) will actively contribute to the project. These groups will discuss a range of matters including urban design, landscaping and the environmental management measures (such as for noise) to be used on the project.

Contact us

For further information, you can contact the Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway office during working hours on 1800 674 934.

Visit the office at Level 1, 429 Swift Street, Albury, Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

You can also visit the project website www.rta.nsw.gov/albury for details on the project. This will be updated over time.
