



New south facing ramps taking shape at Watson Street

WATSON STREET INTERCHANGE AND NORTHERN HIGHWAY INTERSECTION UPGRADES

SPRING 2026



We're upgrading the Watson Street Interchange at the Hume Freeway and the intersection of Northern Highway and Watson Street to improve access, ease congestion, and make it simpler and safer to move into and around Wallan.

Wallan road works move ahead

Work is progressing well this spring, with crews reaching key milestones on both projects.

The Watson Street Interchange Upgrade is now more than halfway complete. Major works are on track to finish by mid-2027, six months earlier than first planned.

Crews have:

- continued to build the new south-facing entry and exit ramps
- completed major earthworks and drainage
- continued to rebuild the north-facing freeway ramp connections to Watson Street
- built new walking and cycling paths on Watson Street east and west of the bridge.

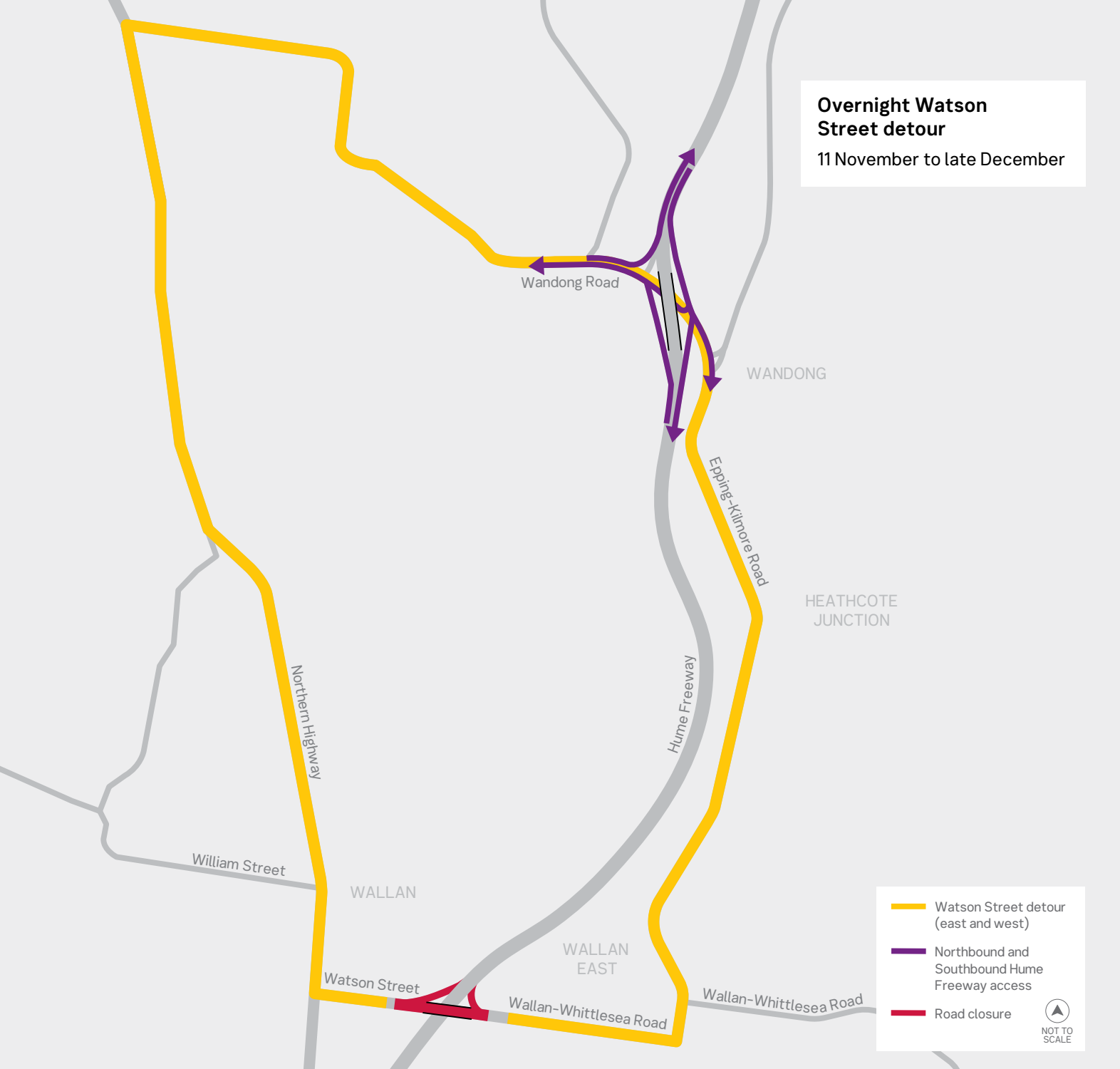
The interchange will support up to 30,000 daily journeys, easing pressure on Northern Highway and improving traffic flow through Wallan.

Nearby, the Northern Highway Intersection Upgrade is also ahead of schedule, with major works expected to finish by December 2026, six months earlier than planned. Together, the two upgrades will improve traffic flow and connections through Wallan.



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Northern Highway Intersection Upgrade – final major works

We've completed major works on the eastern section of Watson Street and reopened the road to traffic.

Final road works

From early November, we'll lay the final layer of asphalt and complete permanent line marking on upgraded sections of Northern Highway/High Street and Watson Street.

Until late December, we'll also:

- finish drainage and underground utility works
- complete shared walking and cycling path connections

- install new public lighting
- complete landscaping.

We'll complete the work in stages and close lanes as needed.

During this time, we'll also close sections of the intersection including Watson Street east and west of Northern Highway at night.

- for closures east of the intersection, drivers will detour via Queen Street, Duke Street and Windham Street
- for closures west of the intersection, drivers will detour via Queen Street, Duke Street and Wellington Street.

Access to the High Street shops will remain open at all times from Northern Highway/High Street.

We'll use temporary traffic lights and traffic controllers to keep traffic moving safely. Short lane closures and traffic holds of up to 10 minutes will continue near the intersection until December 2026.

After major works are complete, you may still see occasional lane closures or reduced speeds in 2027 while we finish minor landscaping and finishing works.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Watson Street Interchange Upgrade

From October until late-December, we'll continue to:

- install new drainage
- build new kerbs, channels and road pavement
- install new traffic signals and street lighting
- install new overhead sign structures and directional signs on the Hume Freeway
- build the new south-facing freeway ramps.

We'll continue working behind temporary barriers on the south side of Watson Street while we complete the new freeway ramps.

From 5am Wednesday 11 November, both north-facing ramps will reopen during the day and will close when required during overnight works.

Overnight road closures

From Wednesday 11 November to late December, we'll close Watson Street at times from Sunday to Thursday, 8.30pm to 5.30am and Friday and Saturday, 9.30pm to 7.30am.

We'll also close the north-facing Hume Freeway ramps during these overnight works.

During the closures, please follow the signed detours:

- **Wallan east and west:** Epping-Kilmore Road, Wandong Road and Northern Highway
- **Melbourne and Wallan:** Hume Freeway and Epping-Kilmore Road
- **Seymour and Wallan:** Epping-Kilmore Road or Wandong Road.

Please follow signs and allow up to 30 minutes extra travel time.



Nothing wasted

We're giving around 10,000 cubic metres of topsoil a second life at the Watson Street Interchange Upgrade.

Topsoil removed earlier in the project was carefully stockpiled for reuse. Now, after testing its suitability for plant growth, we're screening it on site to remove oversized rocks, debris and other unsuitable material.

Instead of bringing in all new material, we're putting this valuable resource back to work in landscaping across the project.

It's a practical example of reusing project materials while supporting native planting and future habitat around the interchange.



New walking and cycling path along Watson Street



New kerbs installed along Northern Highway



Subsurface drainage installation

Supporting Wallan families

As we build major infrastructure, we're also committed to supporting the communities where we work and helping create positive local outcomes beyond the project itself.

Founded in 2016, Love In Action provides food and everyday essentials to people doing it tough, supporting more than 300 local families each year.

Recently, the Watson Street Interchange Upgrade team came together to collect and donate food and essential household items to

local charity Love In Action, helping support families across the Wallan and Mitchell Shire community.



Visit loveinactionwallan.com to ask for support or learn how you can donate.

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