

April 2023

Dear Resident/Business Owner,

Bogong High Plains Road re-opening update

Access to Falls Creek along Bogong High Plains Road will be restored on Monday 24 April, in time for winter preparations.

Despite challenging weather including a one in ten-year rain event, poor ground conditions and arduous haulage routes, our crews have worked tirelessly to prepare the road for restored access, removing more than 75,000 cubic metres of material to reach the current interim solution.

While the reopening of Bogong High Plains Road was always heavily dependent on the elements, an agile approach to programming and having the right people on the job, including many local workers and suppliers, has been critical to the project's success to date.

We'd like to thank local communities, business operators and other key stakeholders for your ongoing support and patience while we work.

Background

A large landslip was first detected on Bogong High Plains Road above Bogong Village in October 2022. Since we took over the project in February 2023, our construction partner, Whelans Group Investments has managed to clear enough debris and construct earth benches – which are much like large steps – within the hillside to make the area safe ahead of the Winter Snow Season.

What to expect

From **Monday 24 April** single access will be restored across the front of the landslip to safely guide vehicles between Mount Beauty and Falls Creek. The length of the single lane is approximately **300 metres** with lanes operating as usual along the remainder of Bogong High Plains Road.

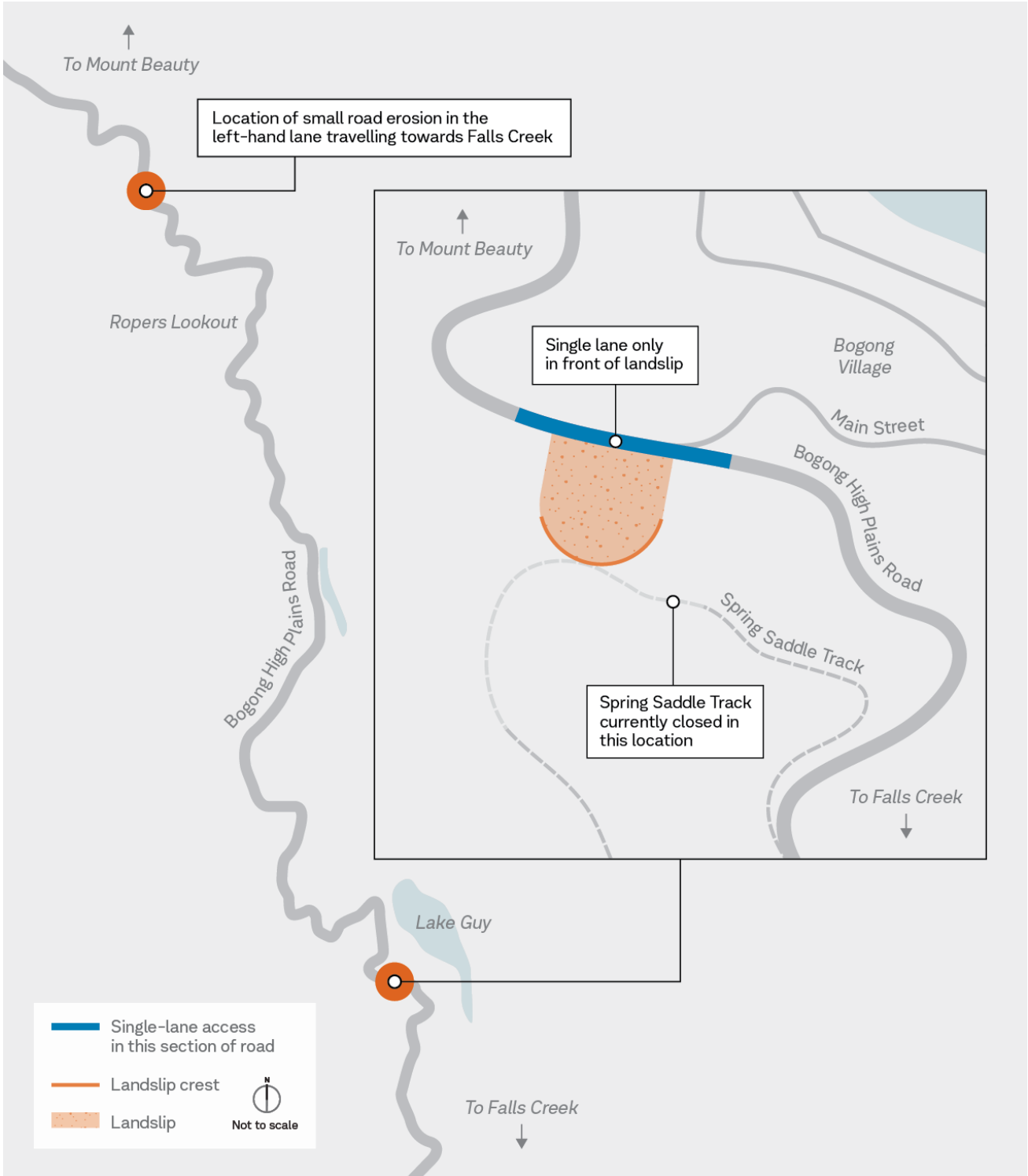
When the road opens, there will be minimal delays to motorists before **8am** and after **4pm** each day, when works are not taking place.

Outside of these hours and at times overnight, drivers should allow an additional **15 minutes** of travel time each way, with crews periodically needing to halt traffic while they safely continue works.

To further reduce delays, traffic signals will be programmed to prioritise peak travel times. For example, traffic going up the mountain will get priority in the morning and then in the afternoon as they head back down. Traffic signals will continue to be monitored and adjusted to further minimise disruption.

Once the road is re-opened there will be no restrictions on the type of vehicles that can use the road, except for those that require a permit, such as oversize trucks. We encourage cyclists to continue to avoid the area if possible.

View a map showing the single lane arrangement on the next page.



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Safety is our highest priority

The site remains an active landslip, but the works completed to date have been designed to reduce further material reaching Bogong High Plains Road.

To keep drivers safe, we'll have concrete traffic barriers in place to separate traffic from the construction site. Sensors have also been installed on the slip to detect any unplanned movement with boom gates located on the road ready to close should this occur.

Works continue

Once single lane access is restored crews will continue to work 7-days a week towards the permanent solution and opening two lanes, weather and ground conditions permitting. This will require ongoing movement of heavy vehicles on Bogong High Plains Road. Please drive with care and caution.

Major Road Projects Victoria has also been tasked with formulating a design solution to repair a smaller section of Bogong High Plains Road which recently failed following heavy rainfall. There is currently a second single lane closure with traffic signals in place, which will remain while investigations take place and repairs are completed.

Emergency access track

Once Bogong High Plains Road is re-opened to traffic between Mt Beauty and Falls Creek, the Emergency Access Track will be closed to the public. Enquiries regarding the access track should be made to the Department of Transport and Planning. Email: humeregionalpartners@roads.vic.gov.au

Access to Bogong Village

As the land managers of Bogong Village, AGL is responsible for authorising long-term access to the Village. AGL has advised that due to the unavailability of potable water, the Village and its amenities will continue to remain closed to public. Enquiries regarding this should be made through them directly.

Once repair works are completed on the landslip, AGL will undertake a thorough impact assessment of the area and its buildings before determining how it may be occupied in the future. AGL are continuing to work with the Outdoor School to ensure it safely accessible as soon as possible.

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Kind regards,

The Bogong High Plains Road Recovery Team
Major Road Projects Victoria

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