



Artist impression of the upgraded intersection of Northern Highway and Watson Street

WATSON STREET INTERCHANGE AND NORTHERN HIGHWAY INTERSECTION UPGRADES

WINTER 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.

Major construction has continued to ramp up across both projects over the past few months, with significant progress being made on key sections of work.

Behind the barriers on the Watson Street Interchange Upgrade, crews have been building the new citybound entry ramp and Wallan exit ramp, with earthworks and drainage continuing as the new alignment becomes more visible.

We'll soon complete the footpath along Watson Street and reopen the path to pedestrians.

On the Northern Highway Intersection Upgrade, crews have progressed at pace, focusing on the western side of the intersection. This work has recently been completed and we've moved to the eastern side, meaning access to the High Street shops and United petrol station has returned to normal.

This an important step towards improving safety and connectivity for everyone using the intersection.

Over the coming months you'll see more works across Wallan as both projects progress to their next stages. We'll continue to coordinate works across both projects to help manage impacts and keep people moving safely.



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Earthworks continue as the new freeway ramps take shape

WHAT'S COMING UP

Watson Street Interchange Upgrade

In early August, we'll move traffic lanes to the south side of Watson Street to create a safe work area on the north side of the road.

This will allow us to start works to realign the north-facing ramps so they connect with the future intersections on either side of the bridge.

Works on the north side of Watson Street will include:

- building new pavement
- installing drainage and other underground services
- constructing new kerbs
- installing traffic signals, street lighting, and landscaping.

The north facing freeway ramps will close from Monday 3 August to mid-November while we complete these works. Drivers and cyclists will be detoured via Epping-Kilmore Road.

Occasional lane closures and short traffic holds will also be required on Watson Street between Windham Street and Wallara Waters Boulevard/Commercial Drive until late 2026.

Please follow signs and allow extra travel time.

Community benefits



Better freeway access



Improved walking and cycling connections



More reliable travel times



Landscaping and planting



New rest area and public artwork



Watson Street footpath reopening

On 5 August, the Watson Street footpath will reopen, marking an important step forward for the project and the community.

This will restore a key walking connection between Wallara Waters, Wallan train station, Wallan industrial estate and Wallan town centre.

The temporary community and school shuttle bus services will finish on 7 August, as the direct pedestrian connection will have been restored.

Thank you for your patience while we carried out these works. Please follow signs in the area and plan your travel.

Northern Highway Intersection Upgrade

Construction has now moved to the eastern side of the Northern Highway, marking a key milestone in the delivery of the intersection upgrade.

With this change, Watson Street has reopened and access to the High Street shopping area and the United service station precinct has returned to normal. All turning movements at the Northern Highway and Watson Street intersection are once again available.

While works continue on the eastern side of the intersection, traffic management will remain in place, including reduced lane widths and lower speed limits to help keep road users and workers safe.

During the September–October school holidays we'll close Watson Street between Northern Highway/High Street and Windham Street to build the eastern side of the intersection.

Please plan ahead, allow extra travel time and follow signs in the area.

We thank motorists, local businesses and the Wallan community for their patience and understanding as we continue to progress the upgrade.

Want to know how the projects work together to benefit the Wallan community? Watch our explainer video by scanning the QR code.



Building new lanes at the Northern Highway and Watson Street intersection



Wallan's shops are open for business

Supporting local business in Wallan

Local shops, cafés and services remain open during construction.

Through the Wallan Open for Business campaign, we're encouraging residents and visitors to support local businesses through initiatives such as Spend and Win, vouchers, wayfinding signage and access information.

We thank businesses, residents and visitors for their ongoing patience and support while these works are underway.



Delivering a lasting legacy

The Watson Street Interchange Upgrade will deliver more than improved transport connections. It will also create a new community space that celebrates Wallan's identity, landscape and community spirit.

A new rest area will be built on Watson Street, on the south-eastern side of the interchange, alongside the upgraded walking and cycling path.

Designed for pedestrians and cyclists, the space will provide a place to rest, connect and enjoy the area.

The space will feature a permanent public art installation, interpretive signage and seating, creating an inviting place to relax and appreciate the surrounding area.

- ✓ **Jun /Jul 2026**
Community consultation
- ✓ **Jul 2026**
Review community feedback
- **Aug/Sep 2026**
Artists to submit expression of interest
- **Sep/Oct 2026**
Artist selected
- **2027**
Artwork installation



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