Completion of the Great Western Highway upgrade

The Great Western Highway is a principal access route from Sydney, across the Blue Mountains to Lithgow then right through to Bathurst in NSW’s central west. In the past two centuries the Great Western Highway has changed dramatically in form however still follows the original route cut by William Cox and his fellow explorers. We would like to thank road users and local residents for their patience during this important work.

1960s – Springwood Bypass
Macquarie Road and Ferguson Road, Springwood – first section of four lanes; bypass of town centre.

1980s – Glenbrook, Blaxland, Valley Heights and Katoomba
Section of four lanes was constructed at Knausack Street, Lapstone to Burnett Street, Glenbrook. Duplication between Scott Avenue and Willow Park Avenue, Leura and realignment of the railway underpasses.

1990s – Lapstone Hill, Warrimoo, Linden Bends and Woodford Bends
An earthen embankment to the Great Western Highway from Hawkesbury Road, Springwood was opened. Opening of a four lane divided highway from Emu Plains to Lapstone Hill. This connected the four lanes at Lapstone to Blaxland including a sloping arch bridge overpass for the main western railway. The Woodford Bends upgrade to four lanes from Bull Camp to Woodford Railway Station.

The Benst Street deviation at West Katoomba opened, eliminating the last railway level crossing on the Highway. Opening of a four lane divided highway from West Street to Scott Avenue, Wentworth Falls.

1990s – Faulconbridge, Linden, Wentworth Falls West, Leura, Shell Corner
Four lanes were opened at Faulconbridge between Grove Road and Park Crescent including a new pedestrian bridge to the railway station.

The Great Western Highway was redesigned at Blaxland Shopping Mall with a new pedestrian bridge at Blaxland Railway Station.

Safety improvements near the Coomassie Shopping Centre at Faulconbridge were completed.

2000s – Faulconbridge, Linden, Wentworth Falls West, Leura, Shell Corner
Additional pedestrian bridges were also built at Valley Heights, Hazelbrook and Leura to ensure local community safety in crossing the Highway.

The Shell Corner realignment consisting of a new railway bridge and duplicated Highway was completed. The opening of these four lanes was of important cultural and indigenous significance as The Gully at Shell Corner was an historic Aboriginal site. The opening in August 2004 included the naming of the Anzac Drive Callery Bridge.

An upgrade at Leura Mall with the upgrade completed in two stages, and straight duplication of the highway between falls road and West Street at Wentworth Falls were also completed.

A new underpass for local road access to Railway Parade, Hazelbrook was completed.

2010 – Lawson Town Centre
The new Lawson town centre was opened in May 2009, which allowed for the construction of the service road and the four lane upgrade between Orion Street and Ridge Street, Lawson.

2012 – Wentworth Falls East and Lawson East Upgrade
Now Roads and Maritime Services, we opened the upgrade between Tabourie Road and Station Street, Wentworth Falls.

The upgrade at Lawson East from Ferguson Avenue to Orion Street East to a four lane divided highway was completed.

2016 – Woodford to Hazelbrook and Bullsura West
The upgrade of the Highway from Woodford to Hazelbrook opened including 3350 new trees being planted.

The Bullsura West project from Genevean Road, Bullsura to Tabolland Road, Wentworth Falls and included environmental features such as a fauna underpass near the base of Baddington Hill and sediment basins was completed.

2015 – Bullsura East
This was the final stage of the upgrade of the Great Western Highway between Emu Plains and Katoomba. It was completed in July 2015.

Today, the Great Western Highway remains the main route for access to Central and Western NSW as well as providing local access for residents of the Blue Mountains. The Great Western Highway upgrade to four lanes between Emu Plains and Katoomba has reduced travel times and improved road safety. The Highway has been upgraded while being sensitive to the Blue Mountains natural environment, heritage and local communities.