



Megalong Valley - Natural Disaster Recovery Update - November 2023

<https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/megalong-valley>

Roadworks at Megalong Road and throughout the Megalong Valley, as well as the remediation of 50+ landslips in the valley, continue to be a priority for Blue Mountains City Council.

It has been a difficult few years for the City and residents, following four natural disasters and major flooding events in 2020, 2021 and 2022. As we all know, these have impacted the Megalong Valley significantly.

We are working to resolve roadwork and landslip issues as quickly as is possible. We understand that this situation is taking an extended period and we want to assure you that this has been unavoidable due to the volume and complexity of repair works, as well as the scarcity of qualified contractors and source materials due to the overwhelming demand across NSW. We apologise for the inconvenience these matters continue to cause.

We continue to work with the Megalong Valley Taskforce on priorities, as identified by community representatives. We will also continue to provide regular updates on the progress of works.

Community concerns and issues	Suggestions from community	Actions taken by council	Status and timeline
Shipley Road	1. Line Marking hardly noticeable and should be	1. The bushes and	<u>Completed</u>

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<p>1. Line Marking needs redoing as its dangerous with heavy traffic.</p>	<p>redone ASAP.</p>	<p>trees were trimmed.</p> <p>2. The pullover area was asphalted and converted into a second lane on 16th June 2023.</p> <p>3. The line marking was completed on 3rd November 2023.</p>	
<p>Stockpiles (mermaid cave carpark + other locations)</p> <p>1. Removal of waste materials dumped at various locations in Megalong Valley (6 in total)</p>	<p>1. Safety issues raised around the stockpiles.</p> <p>2. Remove the stockpiles as soon as possible or let the locals take the material for personal use.</p> <p>3. Effective communication and Swift action required by the Council.</p>	<p>1. BMCC maintenance removed 5 stockpiles from various sites in Megalong.</p> <p>2. 1 Stockpile remains in the valley and is properly cordoned off. The materials will be used for maintenance works in the valley.</p>	<p><u>Completed</u></p>
<p>Megalong Landslip:1</p> <p>1. Temporary Traffic Lights should be removed asap.</p>	<p>1. Lights should be removed.</p> <p>2. Pull up area should be sealed.</p>	<p>1. Remediation Works completed.</p> <p>2. Temporary Lights removed.</p>	<p><u>Completed</u></p>

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	3. Line Marking should be completed.	3. Laying of asphalt Completed 15th June. 4. Line Marking completed 30th June. 5. Sealing of pull up area to be added to Megalong Road upgrade project.	
<p>Megalong Landslip:1A</p> <p>1. A possible new slip identified and monitored by the council.</p>	<p>1. Temporary Traffic lights must be avoided and Stop - Give Way signs be placed if the council decides to close 1 lane.</p> <p>2. Speeds should be reduced for that section.</p>	1. BMCC is monitoring the section, and a report has been submitted to TfNSW for inclusion of this site in DRFA.	<u>Ongoing</u>
<p>Landslip 7a – 8 Coachwood Glen</p> <p>1. Lights should be removed and replaced by Stop and Give Way signs.</p> <p>2. Massive tree leaning on one side should be monitored for lateral movement.</p>	<p>1. Cleaning out the drains using a grader will minimise the water runoff over the road.</p> <p>2. The massive tree leaning on one side was identified and suggest that the Council</p>	1. Council engaged an external traffic management company to do a review and provide recommendations on all the existing traffic	<p><u>Pending</u></p> <p>1. Technical advice regarding temporary</p>

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	<p>puts a reference mark to monitor the movement of the marked tree and if possible, get it removed.</p> <p>3. Re-assess location of traffic signals and replace them with Stop – Give Way signs.</p> <p>4. Explore options other than shotcrete to preserve the ecology of The Glenn.</p> <p>5. Taskforce members want WS to sit with design consultants to discuss alternate design options.</p>	<p>control measures along Megalong Valley Road in accordance with the TFNSW Traffic Control at Work Sites - Technical Manual 2022.</p> <p>2. The assets team has been made aware of the marked tree and have been advised to add this to the landslip monitoring routine.</p> <p>3. BMCC Principal Urban Forester had a look at the trees leaning near landslip 7a and advised that the leaning of the trees has no effect on the landslip or will have any effect in the future and the trees in that area grow in that direction due to the direction/access of</p>	<p>traffic lights was shared with the task force in September meeting.</p> <p>2. The Concept design for 7a is 100% complete and will go to TFNSW for review.</p> <p>3. An internal review of the options is scheduled for 16th Nov. Taskforce will be advised of the outcome.</p>

Community concerns and issues	Suggestions from community	Actions taken by council	Status and timeline
		<p>sunlight.</p> <p>4. ERM (design consultant) was made aware of community concerns regarding the shotcrete treatment and were asked to compile a reply based on the concerns raised by the taskforce members.</p>	
<p>Megalong Slip 9 & 9a: Coachwood Glen</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barriers should be removed. 2. Lights should be removed. 3. 2 lanes should be opened. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community members believe digging into the hill and straightening the road to eliminate the blind spots is a viable course of action and should be investigated. 2. Investigate the vegetation with BEC consultant. 3. To remove temporary traffic lights, Council Should dig into the hill opposite the landslip and open a second lane. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barriers at Landslip 9 are placed to mitigate the risk of loose debris falling from the slip as Landslip 9 is still considered to be potentially unstable under excessive moisture. 2. BMCC walked the sites with the BEC Project management consultant to get advice on removal of 	<p><u>Pending</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Concept design for Site 9 & 9a is 100% complete and will go to TFNSW for review and comments. 2. BMCC has shared

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	<p>4. Explore options other than shotcrete to preserve the ecology of The Glenn.</p> <p>5. Taskforce members want WS to sit with design consultants to discuss alternate design options.</p>	<p>vegetation and digging into hill. Advice from BEC consultant was shared with the taskforce.</p> <p>3. The design for package 1 (which includes all the sites with temporary traffic signals) was awarded to ERM.</p> <p>4. ERM was made aware of community concerns regarding the temporary traffic Lights. And that they should provide a technical advice on the possibility of digging into the hills to open a second lane.</p> <p>5. An inquiry was sent to TfNSW to seek confirmation in writing that this activity can be covered under disaster</p>	<p>the technical advice received from the consultants with the task force members.</p> <p>3. An internal review of the options is scheduled for 16 November. Taskforce will be advised of the outcome.</p>

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		<p>funding.</p> <p>6. ERM (design consultant) was made aware of community concerns regarding the shotcrete treatment and were asked to compile a reply based on the concerns raised by the taskforce members.</p>	
<p>1. Request for Jet patching in the area (12 failures noted) Sectional Repairs like completed near showgrounds (4 sections in Total)</p>	<p>1. Sections of Megalong Road need immediate attention and remediation as the potholes are a safety risk for locals and tourists.</p> <p>2. Some sections have failed completely and need immediate attention.</p>	<p>1. Jet Patcher was in the Valley and has filled the potholes and small patches as much as possible.</p> <p>2. The stabilisation works were completed on 3 big sections identified by the task force.</p>	<u>Completed</u>
<p>Poor condition of Aspinall Road and maintenance of Council assets</p>	<p>1. Grid entrance is dangerous and damaged. Broken Fence needs attention.</p>	<p>1. The Cattle Grid has been repaired and reinstalled.</p>	<u>Completed</u>

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	<p>2. The road bridge on the north side is seriously damaged.</p> <p>3. Some road sections in bad condition and require maintenance and grading.</p>	<p>2. The road bridge/culvert damage has been fixed.</p> <p>3. Aspinall Road has been graded till the wineries.</p>	
Line marking for the full length of the Road from Shipley to the Ford	Due to safety concerns the line marking should be completed as soon as possible.	Line Marking was completed for 5.4 km section on 21st July.	<p><u>Completed</u></p> <p>Line Marking was completed for 5.4 km section on 21 July.</p>
Flow of Information and Communication from BMCC needs to improve.	Community members stressed on the need for better communication from the Council on the progress of works in the Valley.	<p>1. BMCC has appointed Muhammad Ehtisham as the point person for communication regarding landslips and Road reconstruction.</p> <p>2. BMCC has</p>	<p><u>Completed</u></p> <p>Muhammad Ehtisham - Roads and Landslips</p> <p>Nicole Roberts – All other</p>

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		<p>appointed Nicole Roberts as the point person communication regarding for all other issues.</p> <p>3. Council will issue an update to the Megalong Valley community database, following the tabling of status reports at the regular Megalong Valley Operational Taskforce meeting.</p>	community issues
Betterment Grant and Federal Grant	<p>Community has asked to be updated on the status of the grants applied by BMCC.</p> <p>Community has also asked what they can do to help the Council accessing the grant quickly.</p>	<p>1. BMCC was unsuccessful in securing the State Government Betterment Grant.</p> <p>2. BMCC has submitted a finalised application for a \$12.5M federal grant.</p>	<p><u>Pending</u></p> <p>1. BMCC was not successful in securing the Betterment Grant.</p> <p>2. Waiting to hear</p>

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			about status of Federal Grant.
Quality of Contractors and level of supervision on ongoing works	The landslip works at Megalong Slip 1 was not satisfactory and took a long time to get completed and had no council supervision. This should not be repeated for rest of the landslip sites remediation.	BMCC has appointed Muhammad Ehtisham who is a civil engineer to oversee this road reconstruction project, as well as the land slip remediation. Additionally, a Project Management firm has also been engaged to help with the landslip remediation.	<u>Completed</u> Concern addressed.
Issues raised through Councillors	The community raised 7 main Issues via Councillors that were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project planning & priorities. • Concerned about the funding. • Seeking assurances 	The Council presentation to the taskforce addressed all these issues, and the Council is working to address these concerns.	<u>Completed</u> The request from Councillors to look at these issues has been completed.

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	<p>that the road will be safe and accessible for emergency services during the next fire season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of contractors & the work undertaken and the supervision/management of contracts by Council. Short term work on the most problematic parts of the road, asap • Timetable for grading and maintenance of the road network • The issue of the remaining traffic lights. 		
Bicycle Safety on Megalong Road	1. Put up “watch for cyclists signs”.	1. BMCC in consultation with Ride Blue and the Task	<u>Ongoing</u>

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	<p>2. Urge cyclists to wear proper reflective clothing and use lights while riding in the valley.</p> <p>3. Incorporate cycling lane, if possible, in the new road design (from Glen reserve campground to old ford campground).</p> <p>4. Passing lanes or Pull-up areas for cyclists in the windy part if possible.</p> <p>5. Shoulder damage should be repaired as soon as possible, and vegetation should be trimmed.</p>	<p>Force members will be putting up signage to raise awareness about road safety for cyclists.</p> <p>2. Council has urged Ride Blue to raise awareness amongst their members and the tourists coming up from Sydney to follow road safety regulations.</p> <p>3. Inclusion of passing/stopover lane for bicycles in landslip remediation design will be seen as a betterment and hence does not come under DRFA funding. And has been rejected by TfNSW subsequently.</p> <p>4. Muhammad to meet with taskforce members to identify the areas that need</p>	

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		urgent maintenance (from Mermaid's Cave – Glen). 5. Shoulder repair works will be included in Megalong Road upgrade project.	

More information

- For information on roadworks please contact: Muhammad Ehtisham on mehtisham@bmcc.nsw.gov.au or 0414 195 533.
- For information on all other BMCC matters contact: Nicole Roberts, Program Leader Place Management on nroberts@bmcc.nsw.gov.au or 0414 195 787.
- *If you know someone who would like our monthly updates sent directly to them, they will need to register to receive these. Please note: We already have many Blue Mountains City Council Megalong Valley residents listed in this database, as well as some Megalong Valley businesses (you have received this latest update if you are registered). Residents of Lithgow Council, who are living in the Megalong Valley, should also subscribe to receive these updates.*

[Click this link to register for monthly updates](#) or use this QR Code to register for monthly updates:



Again, we would like to apologise for any inconvenience these matters, relating to the multiple natural disasters, continue to cause and are committed to keeping the Megalong Valley community up to date as we continue to recover.