Wurdale Road channel crossing bridge closed

Barwon Water has closed access to Wurdale Road at the channel crossing bridge



During recent condition assessments, the Wurdale Road channel crossing bridge was found to have significant structural issues, creating a major risk to the community, due to safety risks and uncertainty around its load carrying capacity.

As a result, the bridge was closed as a precautionary measure to protect public safety while further investigations and renewal works are undertaken.

The bridge crosses the Wurdee Boluc Inlet Channel, which transfers water from West Barwon Reservoir, and water collected from smaller river and creeks along the way, to Wurdiboluc Reservoir.

Surveying, geotechnical investigations, planning and design have already begun and are due to be complete by late November. Construction is planned to begin in early January 2027, when the channel is empty.

Road closures and traffic diversions will be in place from 2 July 2026 until the bridge works are complete.

We understand that the closure has affected access for the local community. Barwon Water is continuing to work with people affected to identify opportunities to minimise disruption where possible.

We apologise for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience and understanding while we get these essential works done.

Were temporary options considered?

A range of options, including temporary crossings were considered, and while these options were technically feasible, each would require extensive design, engineering, costs, approvals and construction activities, with estimated delivery timeframes from several months to around six months.

Given these factors, none of the temporary access options could be delivered immediately to address current access concerns.

How long will the bridge upgrade take?

We anticipate replacement will begin in January 2027, with likely completion in late February, subject to weather and ground conditions. As key milestones are confirmed, we will continue to provide updates to the community and update this page.

Timeline

- **July 2026** - Wurdale Rd bridge closes
- **Sept 2026** - geotechnical and survey
- **Oct to Nov 2026** - design
- **Nov to Dec 2026** - tendering the works
- **Early Jan 2027** - construction begins
- **Late Feb 2027** - construction complete
- **Late Feb 2027** - Wurdale Rd bridge opens

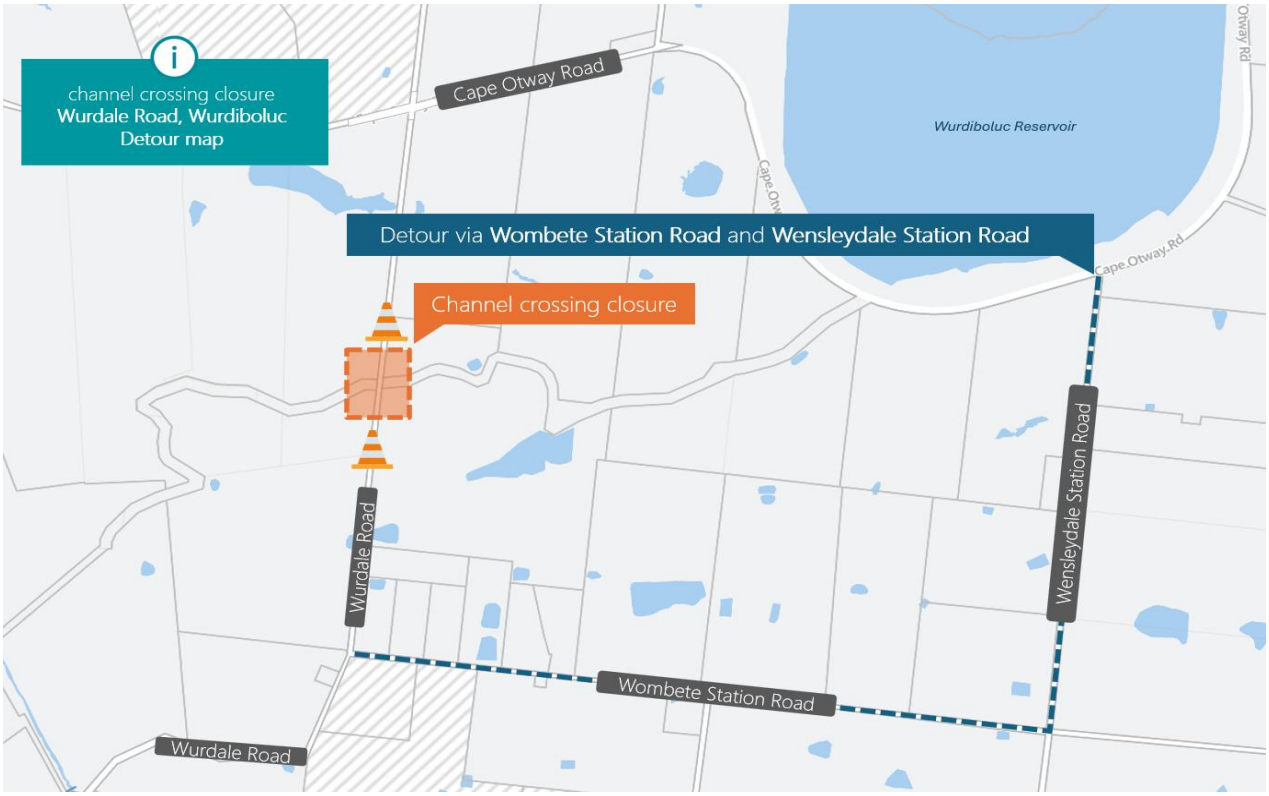
The Wormbete Station Road and Wensleydale Station Road detour

Surf Coast Shire is responsible for the roads surrounding Wurdale, including the designated detour route.

We are working closely with Council and have funded additional maintenance to ensure the road remains in good condition while the crossing remains closed.

We will monitor road conditions and adjust maintenance of the detour route below, as required.

For more information and to stay up to date, please go to Wurdale road channel crossing closure | Your Say Barwon Water



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