



Australian Government

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**



July 2017

## **Release of Nambucca Heads to Urunga Pacific Highway upgrade Post-construction Operational Noise Report**

**The Australian and NSW governments jointly funded the \$780 million Nambucca Heads to Urunga Pacific Highway upgrade. Following the project opening in July last year, a Post-construction Operational Noise Report has been prepared and is now available.**

Under the Minister's Conditions of Approval for the Nambucca Heads to Urunga Pacific Highway upgrade, a Post-construction Operational Noise Report was required to be produced within 12 months of the project opening to traffic. This report has been finalised and is now available.

The Post-construction Operational Noise Report (July 2017) has found that the project has met its road traffic noise goals as set by the NSW Environment Protection Agency (EPA). Consequently, no further noise mitigation measures are required.

Last year, Roads and Maritime Services engaged AECOM to carry out the post-construction operational noise assessment.

The purpose of this assessment was to compare actual noise levels against the predicted noise levels used in project design, and examine the mitigation measures currently in place to determine if further mitigation measures are required.

In August 2016, we hosted community workshops to explain the noise assessment process and invited community feedback on the proposed monitoring locations. As a result of community feedback, we increased the number of unattended noise monitoring locations to 28.

Noise monitoring was carried out in November and December 2016. Traffic count data was also collected before, during and after the noise monitoring period. A noise model was then prepared using traffic and noise monitoring data and information about the project. The outcomes are detailed in the Post-construction Operational Noise Report, which is available on the project website.

The Post-construction Operational Noise Report has been reviewed by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and EPA to ensure regulatory requirements have been met.

A copy of the report is available on the project website [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/northern-nsw/nambucca-heads-to-urunga](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/northern-nsw/nambucca-heads-to-urunga) or by contacting the project team on 1800 653 092.

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## Noise goals for the project

The project road traffic noise goals (Environment Criteria for Road Traffic Noise (ECRTN)) are set and developed by the EPA. According to the EPA guidelines, the project is considered to be:

- A 'redevelopment of an existing arterial road' where the route follows the alignment of the (old) Pacific Highway; and
- Where the route differs substantially from the (old) Pacific Highway (such as the Urunga bypass), it is considered to be a 'new arterial road corridor'.

This means the relevant road traffic noise criteria for the project area according to the ECRTN are:

Type of development	Road traffic noise criteria, dB(A)		Where criteria are already exceeded
	Day	Night	
New freeway or arterial road corridor	L <sub>Aeq(15hr)</sub> 55	L <sub>Aeq(9hr)</sub> 50	The new road should be designed so as not to increase existing road traffic noise levels by more than 0.5dB
Redevelopment of existing freeway/arterial road	L <sub>Aeq(15hr)</sub> 60	L <sub>Aeq(9hr)</sub> 55	The new road should be designed so as not to increase existing road traffic noise levels by more than 2dB

## Noise process to date

The following reports, assessments and plans were prepared to mitigate noise on the project:

- Environmental Assessment (January 2010)
- Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (January 2010)
- Operational Noise Management Report (October 2014)
- Noise assessment after highway opening: Noise readings were taken in November and December 2016 to allow the development of the Post-construction Operational Noise Report.
- Post-construction Operational Noise Report (July 2017).

In total, 104 properties have been offered at residence noise treatment as noise model results at those locations were higher than the project noise goals.

In addition, about 11 kilometres of Stone Mastic Asphalt (low noise pavement) was laid along the length of the project.

## Results of the noise assessment at a glance

The analysis conducted for the Post-construction Operational Noise Report (July 2017) showed the project met its noise goals as set in the Environment Criteria for Road Traffic Noise and by the Ministers Condition of Approval. Therefore, no further noise mitigation measures are required.

## Community drop-in sessions

You are invited to attend a community drop-in session to discuss the Post-construction Operational Noise Report. There is no formal presentation, however the sessions will provide an opportunity to meet with the project team and ask questions about the report.

Details for the sessions are:

**When:** Tuesday 1 August 2017, from 4-7pm.

**Where:** Senior Citizens Hall, Bowra Street, Urunga.

**When:** Wednesday 2 August 2017, from 4-7pm.

**Where:** Nambucca Community and Arts Centre, Ridge Street, Nambucca Heads.

## Contact us

If you would like to speak to someone about this project, please contact Roads and Maritime on 1800 653 092. Alternatively you can email [pacific.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pacific.highway@rms.nsw.gov.au) or write to PO Box 546 Grafton, NSW 2460. For more information on this project, visit: [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/northern-nsw/nambucca-heads-to-urunga](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/northern-nsw/nambucca-heads-to-urunga).