

Oxley Highway to Kempsey upgrade

The Oxley Highway to Kempsey upgrade will provide about 37 kilometres of four lane, divided road from north of the Oxley Highway interchange to south of Kempsey. The project is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW governments.

Project background

The NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure approved the Oxley Highway to Kempsey upgrade on 8 February 2012. The Federal Department of the Environment approved the upgrade on 24 January 2014. The project is being delivered in two sections – from the Oxley Highway to Kundabung and from Kundabung to Kempsey, with early works at the Sancrox interchange.

Project update

Refined Concept Design Submissions Report

Submissions received during the public display period in late 2012 of the refined concept design have been considered by Roads and Maritime. Responses to submissions have been provided in a Refined Concept Design Submissions Report and findings included in the next phase of the project. Publication of this report was deferred to include outcomes of appropriate, targeted consultation with stakeholders on the Wilsons River floodplain.

Wilson River floodplain consultation

A flooding information workshop was held in August 2013, at the Telegraph Point Community Hall. Feedback and materials received during the session has been considered and findings included in the next phase of the project.

Noise

Noise modelling has been completed and preparation of noise management plans has started. The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) guidelines set out maximum noise levels allowed during construction and operation of a project. Noise modelling results and OEH guidelines will be used to set noise objectives for the project. Roads and Maritime will update property owners as this process develops.

New homes for microbats

Ecological surveys have found microbats (small, insect-eating bats) living in bridges and culverts beneath the existing Pacific Highway. To make sure the microbats have a safe dry place to roost while construction takes place, 156 roost boxes have been installed for a variety of bats.

Geotechnical work complete

Geotechnical work carried out by the Oxley Highway to Kempsey Geotechnical Alliance is complete. This work has resulted in 675 boreholes, 750 test pits, 12 kilometres of seismic survey and over 10,000 laboratory tests.

Staging of work

The upgrade will be built in three sections and successful suppliers were recently announced, as outlined below:

Sancrox interchange

- Contract awarded to Ferrovial Agroman (Australia) to build the Sancrox interchange.
- Building due to start in early to mid 2014.

Oxley Highway to Kundabung about 23 kilometres between the Oxley Highway and Barrys Creek near Kundabung.

- Contract awarded to Lend Lease to design and build the Oxley Highway to Kundabung section.
- Building due to start mid to late 2014.

Kundabung to Kempsey about 14 kilometres between Kundabung and the southern end of the Kempsey bypass.

- Contract to be awarded soon to build the Kundabung to Kempsey section.
- Building due to start mid-2014.

If you have any questions about the project please contact our Community Relations team on (free call) 1800 154 724, email oh2kinfo@shjv.com.au or visit the project website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects

Yours sincerely,

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