



Australian Government

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**



Transport  
**Roads & Maritime  
Services**

## Woolgoolga to Halfway Creek

October 2015

**The Australian and NSW governments are jointly funding the \$4.36 billion Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade. Roads and Maritime Services has engaged Pacific Complete, comprising Laing O'Rourke and WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff, to partner with the Pacific Highway Office to deliver the project.**

Roads and Maritime Services has contracted OHL and York to upgrade this 14 kilometre section. Work started in June 2015 and is expected to be open to traffic in 2017, weather permitting.

### What is happening?

Tests show rock in the new roadway is very hard and cannot be removed using machinery alone.

Controlled blasting is needed at six locations between Corindi Beach and Dirty Creek to remove the hard rock.

To ensure the safety of residents and road users there will be an exclusion zone around the controlled blast site, which includes the Pacific Highway.

Advance notice of all controlled blasting activities and any changes to dates and times will be provided.

### Where will controlled blasting occur?

Most controlled blasting will be carried out at six locations between Corindi Beach and Dirty Creek, (please see attached maps).

The length of time for blasting at these locations will vary from a few weeks to eight months.

Controlled blasting may also be needed in the other areas along the project if hard rock outcrops are found during construction. All affected residents will be advised in advance if this is required.

### When and how often will controlled blasting occur?

Controlled blasting will be taking place from November 2015 for about nine months.

Controlled blasting will take about 15 minutes with a total of two blasts per week, weather permitting.

Blasting may be carried out between:

- 1pm and 1.30pm weekdays
- 10am and 10.30am Saturday.

You will be advised when each controlled blast will occur.

## Why do we need controlled blasting?

Controlled blasting is the most efficient way to remove about one million cubic metres of rock and cut up to 45 metres deep into hills. This is needed to create a more level road.

A level road increases safety and reduces fuel consumption as well as noise from motor vehicle engines and truck braking.

This rock will be used on the project reducing the amount of rock imported and the number of gravel trucks using the Pacific Highway.

## What we will do?

### Manage the impact of controlled blasting

We have strict environmental controls related to managing noise and vibration. The blast design and modelling work carried out considers the location of blasts, ground conditions and nearby residents.

Exclusion zones will be in place during each controlled blast, including the Pacific Highway and some local roads.

Advance notice of all controlled blasting activities, road closures and changes to dates and times will be provided on electronic message boards and the project website.

Where there is potential for rock to become airborne, 'blast mats' (made of thick shock absorbing rubber) or other similar measures may be used to minimise airborne material.

There will be minimal noise and vibration effects outside the exclusion areas.

If you live within the controlled blast affected zones the community relations team will be in touch to explain the process and to agree safety procedures.

### Monitor the impact of controlled blasting

We monitor the noise, vibration and air blast overpressure (air pushed outwards from the source of an explosion) of each blast so we can compare expected results to actual results and refine blast design where necessary.

Monitoring results will be available on the project website [www.ohlyorkjv.com.au](http://www.ohlyorkjv.com.au)

## What we would like you to do

### Your safety

As a precautionary measure only, some nearby residents may be asked to remain indoors or be outside of the exclusion zone while the controlled blast occurs. The project team will liaise with these residents in advance including advice 48 hours before each blast takes place.

### Valuables and antiques

As a precaution, remove any valuables and antiques from shelves or walls during the controlled blasting works. The project team are available to visit nearby residents and provide guidance on this matter.

### Pet and animal care

Keep smaller pets inside your house or shed during a controlled blast for their safety and well-being. Animals in paddocks should be checked before and after a controlled blast.

## What should I do if I think my house has been damaged?

The approved limits for vibration and air blast overpressure are below levels likely to cause damage to buildings.

Before work started, the project team carried out building condition inspections on dwellings that are close to the controlled blasting locations. Copies of these reports have been provided to those property owners.

If damage is caused to your property during the controlled blasting process, please contact the Community Manager immediately on 1800 778 900 (press 2) toll free. The project team will organise to have your property inspected and will monitor your dwelling during future blasts to determine if the controlled blasting has caused the damage. The project team will rectify any damage found to have been caused by the controlled blasting work.