



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Pacific Highway upgrade: **Woolgoolga to Ballina Project**

Project update

December 2017

Roads and Maritime Services' Pacific Highway Project Office, Pacific Complete and its contractor partners are working together to deliver the project.

In this update

- 2017 snapshot and achievements
- Focus on: Safety and the community
- Focus on: The Environment
- Focus on: Jobs



Looking north at piling for the new bridge over the Clarence River at Harwood.

2017 snapshot and achievements



- 1 Demolition work is well progressed for the Duck Creek and Emigrant Creek bridges, Pimlico
- 2 Started main construction work between Broadwater and Pimlico and implemented the Koala Management Plan, aimed at reducing impacts on koalas located near the project
- 3 Piling has started for the new bridge over the Richmond River, Broadwater
- 4 Started major construction between Devils Pulpit and the new bridge over the Richmond River at Broadwater. Construction of the 3.6 kilometre service road at Broadwater is almost complete
- 5 Completed construction activities for the two new bridges at Tabbimoble with no impact to the threatened Oxelyan Pygmy Perch (OPP) breeding season. The bridges are planned to be complete by the holiday season
- 6 Land piling finished and marine piling started for the new bridge over the Clarence River, Harwood, plus the first concrete pieces of the bridge are being lifted into place
- 7 Completed earthmoving activities under the early work contract from Glenugie to Maclean, with more than four million cubic metres of earth moved. Major earthwork activities are now underway and construction has started on 11 of the 71 bridges
- 8 Opened 26 kilometres of the highway upgrade to traffic on the southern end of the project between Woolgoolga and Glenugie.



Almost **\$3 billion** worth of contracts have been awarded with rigid pavement contracts in the tender phase

Flood mitigation report for the upgrade **finalised**



Engaged with more than **5500 people** and stakeholders about the upgrade to provide information and resolve complaints

Bridge building is progressing well with **17** out of **170** bridges **finished** and another **16** being built at the moment



There has been a lot of earth moved with **8.7 million cubic metres complete** – that equals 3480 Olympic size pools

We use excavators, scrapers, moxies, pavers and currently we have **345 pieces** of large machinery on site



It's a big job but we have **completed 33 percent** of work

We wish everyone a safe journey this holiday season

To help you arrive safely and quickly at your holiday destination – whether you're off to the beach, city, or just a friend's place – we will start to close down work on the project from Thursday 14 December, with a final shut down date of Thursday 21 December. Most road work speed limits will be lifted during the holiday season – making your journey along the Pacific Highway quicker and less disrupted.

All signage will be updated, so keep a look out for the speed limits. Work sites will progressively reopen from Wednesday 3 January 2018 and road work speed limits will return.

Even though the sites are closed, will have emergency staff on call for you during this time, so please be sure to contact us on 1800 778 900 if you experience any issues.

We are working closely with NSW Police to ensure that your safety is the number one priority this holiday season. We wish everyone a safe journey and a relaxing break!

Safety and the community

Christmas holiday traffic changes in Woodburn

On peak traffic days between Saturday 23 December 2017 to 3 January 2018, Roads and Maritime Services is implementing temporary traffic changes to reduce congestion and increase safety along the Pacific Highway at Woodburn.

The temporary traffic changes include:

- **Keeping the Pacific Highway open at all times for traffic moving through Woodburn**
- **Implementing a no right turn from the Court Street bridge on to the Pacific Highway.** Local traffic wanting to go south will travel via Alfred, Wagner, Woodburn and Whyratta streets.
- **Restricting access to Woodburn Street from the Pacific Highway between 9am and 5pm.** Traffic will not be able to enter or exit Woodburn Street at the Pacific Highway intersection. Local detours will be in place.
- **Crossing supervisors to assist and coordinate pedestrians crossing the Pacific Highway in the centre of Woodburn.**

These changes are aimed at improving traffic flow through Woodburn, improving safety for all road users and pedestrians and improving the ability for locals to travel in and around town.

For more information, please visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au/northern or contact Roads and Maritime Services on (02) 6640 1300.



More than **21 kilometres** of speed limits will be returning to 100 kilometres per hour this holiday season.

Yellow lines get the thumbs up

You may be aware that we have been trialling yellow lines instead of white lines in some areas of the project. The aim of the yellow line initiative is to guide road users through work zones and increase awareness of changed traffic conditions, including reduced or variable speed zones, multiple traffic switches in a short period of time, or the presence of workers and/or machinery.

If you are travelling on the Pacific Highway through Chatsworth Island and over the Clarence River bridge at Harwood, or if you are travelling north from the Yamba interchange through Chatsworth Island you should see the yellow lines.

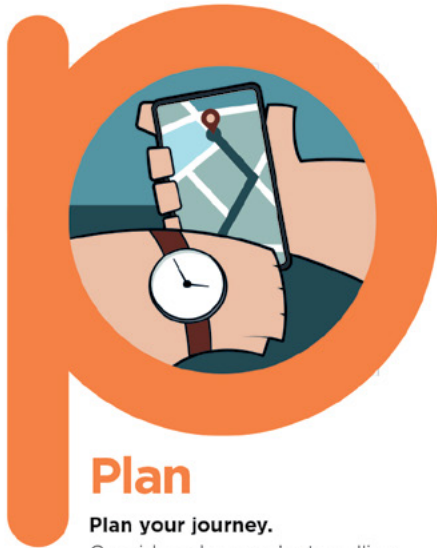
We would like to thank the community for your valuable feedback during this trial.



Soft soil work on the southern side of Tabbimoble Creek



Early work for one of our bridges - bored piling rig in action at Coldstream



Plan

Plan your journey.

Consider when you're travelling. Avoid delays by taking a break. Stay up to date with over size vehicle movements.



Awareness

Access project information.

Search for project information on our website. There are schedules and maps, including rest area maps, to help you plan.



Caution

Consider the safety of all road users and workers.

Be patient and don't take risks. Be prepared for occasional traffic queues.

Oversize and over mass deliveries

The Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade team is building 170 bridges along the 155 kilometre corridor including the two main bridges over the Clarence River at Harwood and the Richmond River at Broadwater.

To build the bridges, the project team is transporting large concrete pieces along the Pacific Highway and some local roads on extra-large trucks. At the peak of building it is expected there will be up to eight oversize and over mass trucks daily on the highway between Macksville and Brisbane to deliver these concrete pieces to project sites.

The safety of road users and workers is our number one priority. Before travelling we ask motorists to remember PAC to help make your journey as safe and efficient as possible.

We expect there will be delays, but P A C will help you plan your journey to get to your destination safely and on time and in light of this, there will be no deliveries over the holiday season.

For the latest information about oversized and over mass vehicle movements for the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade, visit our webpage rms.nsw.gov.au/w2b.



Oversize overmass truck ready for lift off

Variable speed limit signs

We are aiming to improve motorists' experiences when travelling through work sites outside of construction hours by using electronic variable speed limit signs on a 3.5 kilometre section of the Pacific Highway, between Woodburn and Broadwater.

Earlier this year, the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade team installed 24 LED speed limit signs aimed at improving people's journeys and safety.

We are still looking for feedback from the community, so if you have five minutes, please complete our survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W2B_VSLS.

Truck-bus avoidance system and truck safety

As part of our commitment to safety, contractor trucks travelling to and from Petersons and Woodburn quarries along Woodburn-Coraki Road are making use of a two-way telematics (traffic telecommunication) monitoring and reporting system.

As school buses often have no place to pull over when making stops along the Woodburn-Coraki Road, this initiative provides drivers with a much needed early warning system. This innovative system assists truck drivers to identify school buses early by providing a warning (an audible beep) before coming near a school bus fitted with the same system.

In addition to the truck-bus avoidance system, Woolgoolga to Ballina project vehicles are restricted to 80 kilometres/hour on all local roads to help manage safety and dust. Our vehicles have been fitted with an In Vehicle Management System (IVMS) allowing us to track the location and speed of our vehicles as our staff travel through local communities. We regularly monitor and check these records to ensure compliance.

Bus pick-ups

The Woolgoolga to Ballina project team is working with local bus companies while we build the upgrade to minimise impacts to your journeys. During building there will be times when we need to temporarily change bus routes and stops to ensure the safety of road users and passengers. This includes school bus pick-up and drop-off locations. To help us maintain safe separation between our sites and bus stops, we encourage all parents or guardians of new students to contact their local bus provider to find out where the location of the nearest designated pick-up.

The Environment

Recent environmental achievements include:

- Supplying 252 timber pins/footer logs to Tweed Shire Council for its riverbank restoration work
- Salvaging 25 native stingless bee hives and transporting them to Clarence Valley Native Bees
- Providing 167 root balls (main mass of roots at the base of a plant) to Local Land Services and Tweed Shire Council for their restoration work
- Salvaging 350 grass trees and storing them locally for reuse
- Harvesting timber for an aquatic habitat rehabilitation program for the NSW Department of Primary Industries
- Installing about 50 kilometres of emu fencing
- Completing 8.2 kilometres out of 37.6 kilometres of permanent fencing, including mammal exclusion fence, stock and frog fencing
- Planting 80,000 koala feed trees, installing 20 kilometres of temporary and permanent koala fencing, and training more than 2500 workers in koala zero harm strategies.



Jet, the koala detection dog who helps to find our shy koala friends, is an integral team member and feature of the Koala Management Program



Planting native trees for revegetation

Rain events

Whether it's praying for rain, or praying for the rain to stop, rainfall events are a part of our lives. We are committed to proactively planning for all wet weather events and are focussed on reducing the effect of our work and minimising disruptions to local property owners and communities.

We complete a number of steps before, during and after to ensure the safety of the community. Before weather events we do site checks, ensuring drainage is clear of obstructions and also relocate equipment and machinery to higher ground. During, we closely monitor conditions and are on standby 24 hours a day to implement flood emergency response plans. Afterwards, we assess the impact, ensure sites are safe, and prioritise our work to reduce disruption to peoples' access or use of their property.

During major weather events the Woolgoolga to Ballina toll free community information line (1800 778 900) is monitored 24/7, however, for emergency help in weather events phone 132 500. For life-threatening emergencies call 000.

We're not expecting a wet summer, but we want to let you know we're ready if it happens.

Dust management during the holiday period

Major construction work like the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade program must comply with strict environmental requirements for impacts including dust. We take the management of these impacts very seriously and use a range of measures to meet our requirements and ensure that potential impacts to the local community are minimised.

Some of the measures we are taking to keep dust at bay during the holiday period are: applying a soil-binding polymer on exposed areas; spraying a combination of mulch, seed and fertiliser to create a grass layer (known as hydromulch); covering areas with fabric.

If you have any concerns during the holiday period, we encourage you to contact us on 1800 778 900 or W2B@pacificcomplete.com.au.

Jobs

Fast facts

2200 workers on the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade



Nearly **10 percent** Aboriginal participation achieved



1550 workers on construction sites

By mid-2018, about **2500** direct jobs and **7500** indirect jobs in industries like hospitality, retail, and offsite activities



Job Roadshows

In 2017 Pacific Complete hosted a number of successful events aimed at providing information to local people and businesses about opportunities for working on the Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade.

The roadshows, held in a variety of locations from Ballina to Grafton, looked to put people in direct contact with the contractors who are doing the building of the upgrade. With most contracts now awarded, including main civil and bridge building – the project is heading towards peak employment time.

Each session had staff from the Woolgoolga to Ballina project team, training and education providers, job active agencies, project contractors and labour hire companies. In total, around 750 locals attended an event.

About 90 percent of people who attended the jobs events said they would apply for a job on the project.

If you are interested in applying for a job on the project, please visit the Pacific Complete Jobs Website www.pacificcomplete.com.au/Jobs for more information.

Work Ready Program

This November we launched a Work Ready Program aimed at providing induction opportunities for people, particularly locals, seeking work on the Woolgoolga to Ballina project. The training is free of charge and provides people with an induction to the project and Next Gear safety. All people that work on the project must have this critical training to ensure safety and that they are Work Ready.

As we are leading up to peak construction in mid-2018, the project will create about 2500 direct jobs. If you would like to do the training or you know of anyone interested in the induction sessions, go to www.pacificcomplete.com.au/jobs to register interest.

People attending an induction training session need to have proof of identification and a construction white or blue card. Sessions will start in late December and continue through January and into the new year.

Contact us



1800 778 900



W2B@pacificcomplete.com.au



www.rms.nsw.gov.au/w2b



131 450

This document contains important information about road projects in your area. If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call the project team on 1800 778 900. The interpreter will then assist you with translation.



Piling work and girders on site for the new bridge over the Richmond River

December 2017
RMS 17.635

Privacy Roads and Maritime Services ("RMS") is subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 ("PIIP Act") which requires that we comply with the Information Privacy Principles set out in the PIIP Act. All information in correspondence is collected for the sole purpose of assisting in the delivery of this project. The information received, including names and addresses of respondents, may be published in subsequent documents unless a clear indication is given in the correspondence that all or part of that information is not to be published. Otherwise RMS will only disclose your personal information, without your consent, if authorised by the law. Your personal information will be held by RMS at 27 Argyle Street, Parramatta. You have the right to access and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.

