



Australian Government

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**



December 2015

## **‘Drop-in’ session about the opportunity for the local community to relocate the convent building at Harwood**

**The NSW and Australian 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 155 kilometre Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade project.**

The Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade includes building a new bridge over the Clarence River, east of the existing Harwood Bridge. As part of this work, bridge piers and road embankments will be built on the site of the former convent building at 12-14 River Street, Harwood. As a result, the convent has to be removed from its location by the end of February 2016.

The convent was identified in the Maclean Shire Community Based Heritage Study as being part of the Harwood Conservation Area. The study found the convent has local significance as it demonstrates the growth and development of the town of Harwood.

The project’s Environmental Impact Statement committed to investigating the feasibility of relocating the building to an appropriate site within the Harwood Heritage Conservation Area.

As part of that commitment, our responsibilities include:

- Decommissioning the septic
- Disconnecting existing services
- Clearing the block of land
- Preparing the site for major work activities by March 2016.

Roads and Maritime will not be responsible for future maintenance of the convent if it is relocated.

### **Register your interest**

If you or your organisation are interested in relocating the convent for private or community use please register your interest at the ‘drop-in’ session being held on **Thursday, 28 January 2016**.

Key issues to consider in any relocation proposal should include:

- Physical removal of the convent from the existing site does not require a development application
- Relocation of the convent to another property needs to consider local development and planning rules from Clarence Valley Council
- If proposed to be used as a residence the convent will need to go to a property with an appropriate dwelling entitlement
- The relocated convent would have to meet building specifications and new flood height requirements
- The convent may contain asbestos. For more information go to [http://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/cp\\_themes/metro/page.asp?p=DOC-GDM-41-35-16](http://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/metro/page.asp?p=DOC-GDM-41-35-16)

- Relocation, utility re-connections and future maintenance will be the responsibility of the private owner or community group.

### **‘Drop-in’ session**

The ‘drop-in’ session is being held at **Harwood Community Hall, River Street, Harwood**. If you or your organisation wish to speak with the project team to find out more and register your interest please ‘drop-in’ **any time between 4pm and 7pm on Thursday, 28 January 2016**.

### **Contact**

If you have any questions, please call our project information line on 1800 778 900 (toll free). For more information on our projects, visit [rms.nsw.gov.au/W2B](http://rms.nsw.gov.au/W2B)



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 778 900