



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



August 2018

Controlled blasting at Lang Hill borrow site, Woodburn for Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade

The Australian and NSW governments are jointly funding the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade. Roads and Maritime Services Pacific Highway Project Office, Pacific Complete and its contractor partners are working together to deliver the upgrade.

As part of work to build the new road, the Woolgoolga to Ballina project team will carry out a trial controlled blast at the Lang Hill borrow site, Woodburn on Wednesday 15 August, weather permitting.

The team has prepared a project specific Blast Management Plan and associated work method statements as part of planning for this activity. The plan considers the geology of the area, the location of sensitive receivers and vibration and air blast overpressure limits.

The trial controlled blast will be monitored and the data used to further refine the design, and to ensure full controlled production blasts comply with the vibration and overpressure limits approved under the project Conditions of Approval.

Once the trial controlled blast has been completed and data is analysed, the project team will confirm whether controlled blasts will continue at this site.

Blasting involves drilling a series of holes in a predetermined pattern in a section of hard rock, then loading the holes with appropriately sized explosives and detonating to break the hard rock ready for excavation, crushing, screening, stockpiling and hauling.

How will work affect you?

Exclusion zones of 300 metres within the blast area will be in place during the trial blast and any subsequent controlled blasting. There will be minimal potential noise and vibration effects outside the exclusion area.

During this work, nearby residents can expect:

- Low levels of vibration during excavation, drill and controlled blast activities
 - Increased noise levels due to the use of heavy machinery and excavation equipment
 - Increased traffic on local roads including construction vehicles, heavy machinery and haulage trucks
 - Dust due to the nature of excavating, but water carts will be on site to help mitigate it
 - Sirens, flashing lights and reversing alarms on machinery and vehicles for the safety of workers.
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Why do we need controlled blasting?

The project team will use drilling and blasting methods to break up hard rock when other excavation methods are not possible. Using material from this site to build the road will reduce the number of trucks on the existing highway and travel distances, improving safety and efficiency for all road users.

How do we manage the impacts of controlled blasting?

Vibration is controlled by adjusting the size and timing of the maximum instantaneous charge (MIC), which is the amount of explosive detonated at any particular instant. The size of the MIC is adjusted so that the limits for ground vibration and air blast overpressure for sensitive receivers are not exceeded. The size of the MIC is managed by using delays on the detonators.

Directly affected residents within 300 metres from the work areas will be informed before each controlled blast. These activities will be carried out in accordance with the project's Conditions of Approval and Construction Environment Management Plan.

The controlled blasting activity is not anticipated to cause any traffic delays on the Pacific Highway or local road network.

Work hours

Typically work will be carried out during the project's approved construction hours, which are:



7am – 6pm Monday – Friday
8am – 5pm Saturdays

Nearby residents will be notified at least five working days in advance of any activities scheduled outside of these hours.

For more information

If you have any questions, please contact the Woolgoolga to Ballina project toll free line on 1800 778 900 dial 1, W2B@pacificcomplete.com.au or visit the project website rms.nsw.gov.au/W2B.

We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience during this important work.



131 450

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.