



Australian Government

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**



MARCH 2018

## **Fact Sheet: controlled blasting near Bondi Hill Road, Tyndale for the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade**

**The Australian and NSW governments are jointly funding the \$4.36 billion 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 project.**

As part of construction work between Tyndale and Maclean, the project team will be carrying out controlled blasting from late February 2018 for about three months, weather permitting.

### **What is happening?**

Testing at the controlled blast site has shown rock in the new roadway is very hard and cannot be removed using machinery alone. The project will need to use controlled blasts to break up the rock for removal.

To ensure the safety of residents and road users there will be an exclusion zone around the controlled blast site, including the Pacific Highway as a precautionary measure.

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

### **Where will controlled blasting occur?**

Controlled blasting is needed near Bondi Hill Road at Tyndale to remove the hard rock.

Controlled blasting may also be needed in other areas along the route if more hard rock is found during building. We will advise residents in advance if this is required.

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

Controlled blasting will take about 30 minutes with up to two blasts per week, weather permitting.

Blasting may be carried out between:

- 9am and 5pm weekdays
- 9am and 1pm on Saturdays.

### **Why do we need controlled blasting?**

The project team needs to carry out controlled blasting because:

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- It is the most efficient way to remove about 20 cubic metres of rock. This is needed to create a more level road
- Building a level road increases safety and reduces noise from vehicle engines and truck braking and this helps reduce fuel consumption.

The blasted rock will be used on the project reducing the amount of material needed to be hauled to the project site and the number of trucks using the Pacific Highway to deliver it.

## **What we will do?**

### **Manage the impact of controlled blasting**

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

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

We will provide advance notice of all controlled blasting activities, road closures and changes to dates and times on electronic message boards and the project website.

Where required, 'blast mats' (made of thick shock absorbing rubber) or other similar measures may be used to minimise material becoming airborne. There will be minimal noise and vibration effects outside the exclusion areas.

If you live within the controlled blast affected zones we will contact you directly 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.

### **Control vibration**

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 the limits for ground vibration and air blast over pressure for each sensitive receiver are not exceeded.

The size of the MIC is managed by using delays on the detonators so the controlled blast is set off in a predetermined sequence and by reducing or extending the length of each controlled blast.

The data recovered from the monitoring of each controlled blast, including an initial trial blast, is compared to the predicted effects, to enable the project team to further refine and carefully control each blast.

## **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.

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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 work. 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 starts, building condition inspections will be carried out on dwellings close to the controlled blasting locations. Copies of these reports will be provided to those property owners.

If damage is caused to your property during the controlled blasting process, please contact us immediately on 1800 778 900.

We will then organise to have your property inspected and will monitor your dwelling during future blasts to determine if the controlled blasting has caused the damage, and if so necessary repairs will be carried out.

### **Contact us**

For more information about the work please contact the project team on 1800 778 900, email [W2B@pacificcomplete.com.au](mailto:W2B@pacificcomplete.com.au) or visit the project

There will be some temporary traffic changes while this work is carried out to ensure the safety of road users and workers. Reduced speed limits and lane closures may be in place and may affect travel times. Please keep to speed limits and follow the direction of traffic controllers and signs. For the latest traffic updates call 132 701, visit [livetraffic.com](http://livetraffic.com) or download the Live Traffic NSW App.

### **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](mailto:W2B@pacificcomplete.com.au) or visit the project website [rms.nsw.gov.au/W2B](http://rms.nsw.gov.au/W2B).

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



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.