



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



September 2018

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

The Australian and NSW governments are jointly funding the Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade. Roads and Maritime Services, 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 controlled blasting at Lang Hill, Woodburn from late September 2018 for about nine months, weather permitting.

What is happening?

The project team will use drilling and controlled blasting to break up hard rock located within the Lang Hill borrow site.

Controlled 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 transporting.

When and how often will controlled blasting occur?

Controlled blasting will take about 15 minutes with one blast occurring per week, weather permitting.

Blasting may be carried out between:

- 9am and 3pm from Monday to Friday
- 9am and 1pm on Saturday.

How will controlled blasting affect you?

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

Why do we need controlled blasting?

Drilling and blasting is the most efficient method 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, further improving safety and efficiency for all road users.

What we will do?

Keep you informed

The project team will contact residents and property owners within one kilometre of the controlled blast area in advance via email and SMS, 24 hours before each controlled blast takes place.

Manage the impact of controlled blasting

We have strict environmental controls related to managing noise and vibration. Controlled blasting will be completed in accordance with the project's Conditions of Approval and Construction Environment Management Plan.

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 the 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.

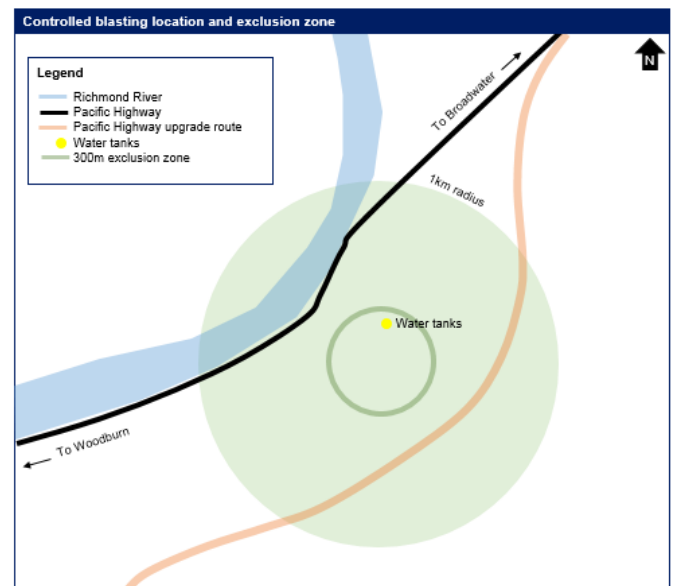
The size of the MIC is managed by using delays on the detonators so the controlled blast is set off in a predetermined sequence and by reducing, or extending the length of each controlled blast.

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.

To ensure the safety of residents, there will be a 300m exclusion zone around the controlled blast site.

There will be no traffic delays on the Pacific Highway during controlled blasting due to the distance from the work site.

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



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