Overview of the upgrade

Pacific Highway upgrade

This report will provide you with information about Pacific Highway upgrade projects, including the current status and key activities.

As of 31 October 2018, about 81 percent of the final 657 kilometre length of the Pacific Highway are four lane divided road. The remaining kilometres are all in major construction and are on schedule to open during 2020.

For more detailed information visit the project website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/pacific or call the Pacific Highway office on 1800 653 092

* including workers not on site working across the whole Woolgoolga to Ballina project
The 155 kilometre upgrade between Woolgoolga and Ballina is the last highway link between Hexham and the Queensland border to be upgraded to four lanes. 26 kilometres opened in 2017 and the remaining sections are due to open in 2020.

Roads and Maritime Services’ Northern Project Office, Pacific Complete and its contractor partners are working together to deliver the project. The delivery partner model is based on the approach used to oversee construction of infrastructure for the London Olympics and supports collaboration and innovation by bringing businesses, workers, consumers and suppliers together. It encourages the best ideas and solutions from the private sector while also drawing on Roads and Maritime’s knowledge to ensure better engineering and design, customer outcomes and public value.
**Background**

The Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade was approved by the NSW Minister for Planning in June 2014 and the Federal Minister for the Environment in August 2014. Of the 155 kilometre project, 26 kilometres are open to traffic, and when complete will provide a four lane divided road from the northern end of the Woolgoolga Bypass to the southern end of the Ballina Bypass. The project is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW governments.

**Overview**

- vegetation removal is 96 percent complete with the upgrade expected to save 127 hectares of vegetation
- bulk earthwork is 82 percent complete
- seven more bridges are complete of the 170 bridges for the upgrade meaning 39 bridges are complete.

**Successes / Achievements for September / October 2018**

- overpass bridges for Bostock Road, Avenue Road, Old Six Mile Lane and Firth Heinz Road open to traffic improving local access
- work was completed on bridges between Devils Pulpit and Broadwater before the Oxleyan Pigmy Perch breeding season started
- girders installed on Woodburn Evans Head Road overpass bridge and concrete deck pours commenced

- first girders installed on bridge over Duck Creek, Pimlico
- more than 50 percent spray seal complete between Richmond River, Broadwater and Coolgardie.

**Environment**

- received positive Environmental Representative Group feedback from 12 inspections during September
- launched a social media post on Roads and Maritime Facebook page about the Oxleyan Pigmy Perch for Threatened Species Day with more than 20,000 views
- seventh consecutive month without a red indicator
- project was announced as a finalist for the 2018 NSW Premiers Awards for the rootball initiative.

**Stakeholder and Community Engagement**

- a community update was delivered to more than 30,000 properties along the alignment providing information about the upgrade being 50 percent complete plus other progress
- factsheet explaining paving on the upgrade made available on Roads and Maritime's website
- three-part social media campaign explaining how we build roads (drilling and blasting, cut and fill and quarries materials) complete with more than 93,000 people reached
- distributed 5,000 community updates calling for feedback on a temporary batch plant to supply asphalt between Maclean and Devils Pulpit
- as part of the truck and driver recruitment campaign, a NSW Roads Facebook post was one of the most popular ever for the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade reaching more than 96,000 people.

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Woolgoolga to Ballina

Maclean to Devils Pulpit

Looking north from Maclean cut

Looking south towards Maclean cut

Work progressing on Mororo bridge

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Woolgoolga to Ballina

Devils Pulpit to Broadwater

- Base paving on a section north of Devils Pulpit
- Temporary structure completed for the new bridge over Tuckombil Canal
- Placing girders north of Tuckombil Canal

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Woolgoolga to Ballina

Broadwater to Ballina Bypass

- Building the new bridge over Emigrant Creek
- Lifting girders for the new bridge over Duck Creek
- Installing 4.5km of concrete paving north of Broadwater
- Installing girders for bridge in Coolgardie

- Average number of workers on site: 536
- Average number of pieces of machinery on site: 387
- 19 days lost to wet weather
- About 60% complete
- 7 contractor companies on site

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Woolgoolga to Ballina

New bridge over the Clarence River at Harwood

The new bridge deck looking south

Oval Link Road connection to the Pacific Highway under the new bridge

Work continuing on the southern end of the bridge

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Woolgoolga to Ballina

New bridge over the Richmond River at Broadwater

- Building the bridge deck
- Last headstock shell being installed
- Using the side lift truss for installing girders
- Work continues on installing girders

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