

Contact us

Please contact the project team if you have any questions or would like more information:



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Coffs Harbour bypass project
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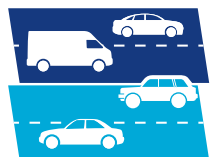
What happens next?



Improving safety



Improving traffic flow



Easing congestion



Bypass up to 12 sets of traffic lights



Motorists will save about 12 minutes in travel time



May 2021

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BUILDING OUR FUTURE



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Transport for NSW

Coffs Harbour bypass

Project update | June – July 2021



Geotechnical investigations have continued at North Boambee

The Australian and NSW governments are funding the 14 kilometre Coffs Harbour bypass project. The bypass will boost the regional economy and improve connectivity, road transport efficiency and safety for local and interstate motorists.

Once complete, the Coffs Harbour bypass will save motorists over 12 minutes in travel time, bypass up to 12 sets of traffic lights and remove about 12,000 vehicles from the centre of town, making Coffs Harbour an even better place to live, work and visit.

Early work progress

Early work on the bypass started in December and has been progressing well over the past few months, despite the wet weather. In preparation for the start of major construction, early work has involved many activities in a number of locations along the alignment. This includes surveying, fencing, utility relocations, removing houses, geotechnical investigations, building minor ancillary sites, building the new rural fire service shed, salvaging of Aboriginal artefacts, building creek crossings, water quality monitoring, ecological surveys and scoping at-house noise treatments.



Preparing for the water main relocations on Coramba Road

At house noise treatment

Thirteen local and regional builders have been shortlisted to carry out the work on behalf of Transport for NSW. At-house noise treatments may include seals to windows and doors, reglazing, installation of air conditioning, insulation and/or relining of exposed walls. The range of treatment depends on the predicted road traffic noise impacts at each property. We have completed 54 assessments of the 619 properties eligible for at-house noise treatment. As scoping assessments continue, preparations are underway to commence the first package of installation to some of the most affected properties.

In accordance with the project's conditions of approval, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) will approve an Acoustic Advisor. Under the project's approval conditions, the Acoustic Advisor must be independent of design and construction personnel and must also be suitably qualified and experienced in noise modelling and noise and vibration management. For more information on the Acoustic Advisor contact the project team at coffsharbourbypass@transport.nsw.gov.au

Geotechnical Investigations

Geotechnical investigations, which include drilling and test pitting, continue at various locations along the alignment. The intention of drilling and test pitting is to collect core samples, which have now been sent for laboratory testing. Once the results are received, analysis will be carried out by our geotechnical engineers in preparation for designing specific elements of the project, including bridge piles, foundation treatments, earthwork operations and other construction considerations such as suitability of material to be reused onsite.

Utility relocations

We have completed some of the essential electrical work required in the southern section of the alignment. Further electricity relocations were carried out on Buchanans and North Boambee Roads in June.

Water main relocations on the corner of Coramba and Spagnolos roads started in February and will take about six to seven months to complete. Similar work at North Boambee Road, west of Highlands Estate, and Stadium Drive, along the Pacific Highway, are to start soon and will also take around six to seven months to complete.

Telecommunications work is due to start in August.

Relocating the Solitary Rural Fire Service (RFS) shed

Building work is underway for the new Solitary RFS shed at its new location on Bruxner Park Road near the new Korora Hill interchange. Building the facility early in the project will ensure an uninterrupted fire service for the community as the existing building is required to be removed to make way for the project. C-Build North Coast has been engaged to carry out this work.

Local Industry Participation Plan

The Local Industry Participation Plan for the project was recently launched, seeking to promote local businesses and create local jobs. Since the plan was launched more than 30 local businesses have been engaged to assist with early work activities. The plan seeks to create significant employment opportunities for local people and demonstrates the project's commitment to engage Aboriginal businesses and people.

Local businesses wanting more information on how to be involved with the Coffs Harbour bypass project are encouraged to register their interest via the project website at www.pacifichighway.nsw.gov.au/coffsharbourbypass.

Flora ecological surveys

Detailed ecological surveys are being carried out to ensure all threatened plant species that could be impacted during construction are identified and measures put in place to protect, or where feasible, relocate threatened plants. One of the threatened species that has been identified for relocation is the rusty plum.

The ecological surveys have also discovered two new probable species. Samples of a *Fontainea* allied to *F. oraria* (Lennox Head *Fontainea*) and a species of *Pittosporum* that differs in several characteristics from other known species from that genus were collected and sent to the NSW and QLD Herbariums for identification and catalogue. An interim strategy to protect the species has been developed, which will include relocating the plants, propagation and/or protecting the species in-situ. The Coffs Harbour project team has been collaborating with Environment, Energy and Science Group of DPIE to protect the probable new species and will continue to do so throughout the building of the project.

Working with Aboriginal stakeholders

We are committed to supporting and working collaboratively with local Aboriginal knowledge holders to assist in the protection and preservation of local culture, cultural heritage and cultural values.

A “two-way” process of sharing information, knowledge, technical experience and cultural expertise between the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) and the project team has helped to build a strong relationship. The archaeological salvage work is nearly complete, with Aboriginal site officers and archaeologists finding artefacts along the alignment over the last few months. We will continue to work with the Aboriginal stakeholders in developing positive outcomes for the Coffs Harbour community.



Washing down to stop the spread of Panama Disease

Panama Disease

The project team is working with banana growers and the NSW Department of Primary Industries to minimise the spread of Panama Disease within the Coffs Harbour region.

To protect the banana farming industry in Coffs Harbour, we have developed a draft Panama Disease Control Management Plan. In consultation with the banana farmers, the plan outlines specific control measures such as cleaning and wash down procedures for plant, vehicles, equipment and personnel. It also details specific controls for the management of risk material such as vegetation and topsoil.

The basic principle for all team members and contractors on the project is “Come Clean, Leave Clean” and this is being implemented whenever entering or leaving banana plantations. A Panama Disease trailer has been developed which is easily transportable across the alignment to various work sites to make sure the project is doing what it can to stop the spread of this disease.



Aboriginal site officers looking for artefacts along the alignment

As part of the early work utility relocations, the existing bus shelter on Spagnolos Road was removed and relocated in April. The new shelter has been built nearby on Coramba Road, where it can be more easily accessed and utilised by local bus companies, and keep school students safe. Local Coffs Harbour building company PKN Constructions was engaged to do the work.

A white icon of a bus shelter with a blue person silhouette inside, set against a blue background.