



August 2023

Controlled blasting between North Boambee Road and Buchanans Road

The Australian and NSW governments are funding the \$2.2 billion, 14-kilometre Coffs Harbour bypass project. The bypass will boost the regional economy and improve connectivity, road transport efficiency and safety for all local and interstate motorists.

As part of earthwork for the Coffs Harbour bypass, the project team is starting drilling and controlled blasting at a cut site between North Boambee Road and Buchanans Road. Drilling will start on **Monday 21 August 2023** with the first controlled blast expected to take place on **Wednesday 30 August 2023**. This work will take about 18 months to complete in this area, weather permitting.

Controlled blasting is used to break up hard rock that can't be excavated by mechanical means. We use this rock to build up or "fill" parts of the road alignment that run through lower-lying areas and to process into pavement materials.

This work will involve:

- drilling blast holes over multiple days
- placing explosives in the holes according to a set pattern and depth
- traffic control and short stoppages on local roads, if required
- detonating the blast
- monitoring vibration and air blast overpressure (noise from energy release)
- crushing the rock and loading it into trucks
- transporting the rock for use on the road alignment.

Controlled blasting for cuts will be carried out specifically between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. For more information, please view our fact sheet online.

The safety of workers and the community is our highest priority when undertaking controlled blasting activities. All blasts are managed by a licensed contractor and experienced shotfirer in line with relevant legislation. An exclusion zone will be established before each controlled blast and all site access points will be manned by designated blast guards to stop access.

How will the work affect you?

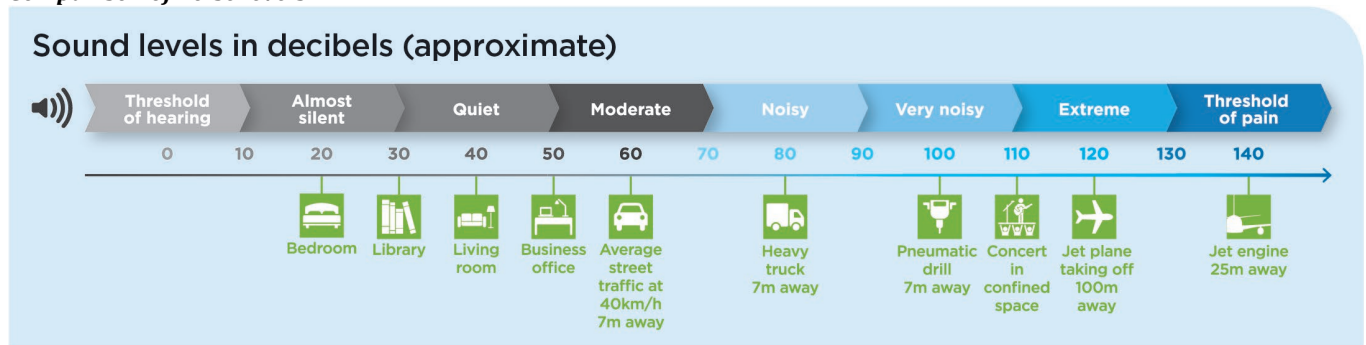
The Minister's Conditions of Approval (MCoA) for the project sets strict limits on vibration and air blast overpressure and all blasts are modelled and monitored to ensure compliance. Any increase to these limits will be discussed and agreed with all residents before work starting. Data from the monitoring will be publicly available online each month.

We intentionally stage our blasts to minimise impacts for community. There will be up to two blasts per week in this location. For your safety, please follow signage and the direction of traffic control at these times.

Noise from a controlled blast is over quite quickly and can be compared to a loud clap of thunder. The project team will liaise with affected residents and property owners in advance of blasting, including weekly updates via email and SMS, if requested.

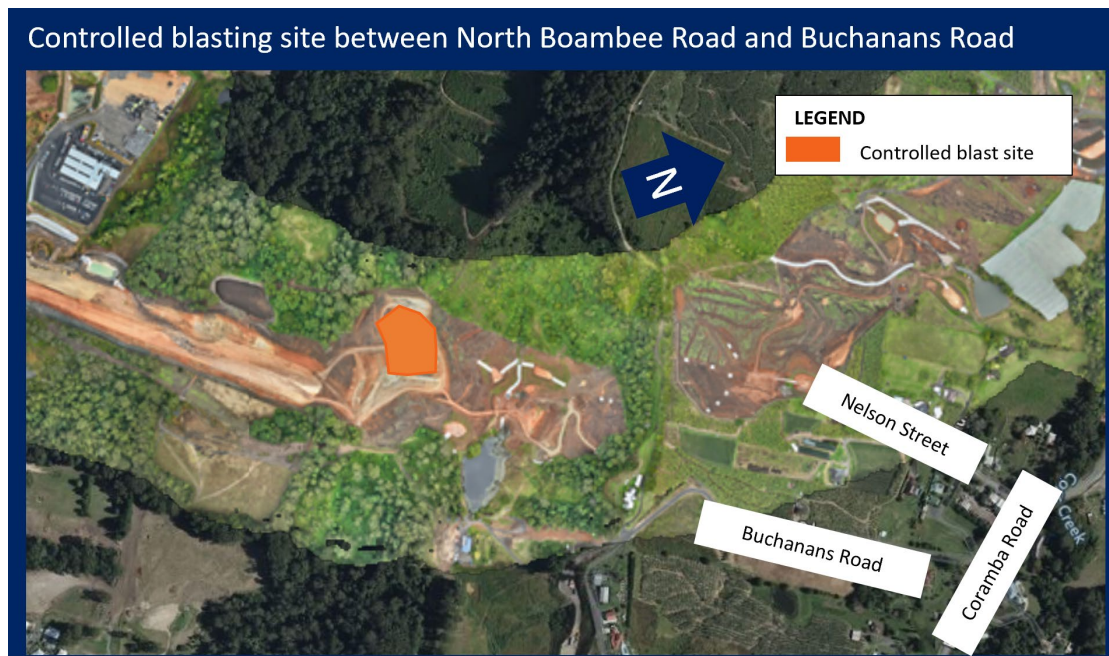
Drilling and crushing activities are constant and can be considered very noisy, as illustrated in the graphic below. All work will take place within approved construction unless approved in accordance with the project’s Environment Protection Licence. Plant and equipment will be positioned as far from sensitive receivers as possible and respite periods will be scheduled as required under project approvals.

Comparison of noise levels



Trucks will transport the crushed rock to fill sites via the heavy vehicle crossing on North Boambee Road and temporary traffic control will be in place to assist with these movements. Motorists can expect a reduced speed limit and regular intermittent delays of up to five minutes during standard construction hours.

Location of work



Looking ahead

Upcoming construction work in this area includes:

- Ongoing concrete batch plant operations at Englands Road, North Boambee which will include some out of hours work to meet construction requirements – this extended hours work will be notified separately
- Ongoing out of hours refuelling and plant and machinery maintenance along the alignment
- Ongoing earthwork activities along the alignment – this may include extended hours on Saturdays which will be notified separately
- Controlled blasting at various locations along the alignment in coming months – specific locations will be notified separately.

We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience as we build this important project which will boost the efficiency and safety for local and interstate motorists.

Standard construction hours

The standard construction hours for the project are:

- **Monday to Friday from 7am to 6pm**
- **Saturday from 8am to 1pm on Saturday.**

Safety

Coffs Harbour bypass is continuing major construction with active working sites across the alignment. We have started, and will continue, to be using large plant and equipment across our sites as well as carrying out controlled blasting, hammering and drilling. For the safety of the community and our workers, access to the bypass construction site is restricted to authorised personnel only. Members of the public should not enter any Coffs Harbour bypass construction site at any time.

Subscribing to the project

The Coffs Harbour bypass electronically distributes weekly updates including about traffic changes and controlled blasting to keep the community and motorists informed during construction. If you would like to be added to our email notification distribution list, please send an email to community@chbteam.com.au including your name, contact details and address.

Contact

If you have any enquiries or complaints, please contact the project team on 1800 550 621 or community@chbteam.com.au

Translating and interpreting service



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 550 621