

Coffs Harbour bypass



Australian Government



NSW
GOVERNMENT



Cut site between Bruxner Park Road and West Korora Road

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 all local and interstate motorists.

Major construction is well underway with vegetation removal, earthwork, and drainage installation happening concurrently. Bridge building will start this month and tunneling work is expected to start in coming months at the Gatelys Road tunnel.

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

Detailed design consultation report

The project's Detailed Design Consultation Summary Report has been completed and is now available to view on the project website.

The report summarises the comments received from the community during the detailed design consultation period and the response from Transport for NSW. Thank you to everyone who took time to review the proposed changes and provide feedback.

The project team is continuing to refine and finalise minor design aspects for improved safety, environment and community outcomes, however, no further significant changes are expected.

Moving earth and having a (controlled) blast

Controlled blasting is progressing at our major cut sites in Korora and North Boambee, with further sites to follow in coming months.

For more information on blasting, please view our fact sheet online.

We are also using a surface mining machine in some areas rather than controlled blasting. The surface miner will potentially be used for cuts along the existing Pacific Highway and at smaller cuts on the alignment. The surface mining machine breaks and crushes rock, layer by layer, in a single operation.



Excavator and Moxey in action near West Korora Road



Surface miner

Of course, we are still using excavators and dozers to hammer and break through the ground at various locations. At peak construction, we expect to have about 300 pieces of heavy plant and machinery on site in a single day.

You may also see Moxeys, which are special dump trucks, transporting rock and dirt to where it is needed on the alignment. We are using internal roads where possible, but will need to use local roads in some locations. During construction, you may see traffic control and heavy vehicles using the below local roads for haulage:

- Old Coast Road
- Campbell Close
- James Small Drive
- Bruxner Park Road
- West Korora Road
- Mackays Road
- Shepherds Lane
- Coramba Road
- Englands Road
- North Boambee Road.

We appreciate your patience during this work and ask that you exercise caution when sharing the road with our construction heavy vehicles.

Coffs Harbour bypass at a glance



14 kilometres



3 interchanges



3 tunnels



30 permanent basins



3.3 million cubic metres of earthworks



16 fauna connections



17 bridges



7 kilometres of noise walls



170,000 cubic metres of concrete



270,000 tonnes of asphalt for paving

*Figures are approximate and conservative

How we manage dust

Building a major infrastructure project creates dust, especially during the earthwork phase.

We appreciate dust is a concern for many nearby residents and have a number of mitigations in place to manage dust on site, including:

- Reducing the vegetation removal footprint, where possible
- Soil binders and geofabric covers
- Progressive revegetation (seeding) on exposed areas
- Stabilising site entry/exit points
- Water carts
- Reviewing work practices and at times, stopping work during periods of high wind.

Our Environment Protection Licence and Air Quality Monitoring Program set limits on the amount of dust the project is allowed to produce and we have 15 depositional dust gauges and two real-time dust loggers across the alignment to monitor compliance.

For more information on dust, please view our air quality fact sheet online.



Water cart in action near North Boambee Road

Temporary concrete batch plant up and running

The team has built a temporary concrete batch plant within the project boundary at Englands Road, North Boambee. This batch plant will produce about 170,000 cubic metres of concrete which will be used for bridge piles, decks and parapets, retaining walls, noise wall foundations, tunnel linings, and drainage structures.

At peak production, this batch plant will produce about 500 cubic metres of concrete per day. As part of batch plant operations, we are expecting about 90 heavy vehicles delivering materials and about 160 agitator trucks delivering concrete per day.

At certain times, the batch plant will be required to operate outside of standard construction hours to meet construction needs onsite. For example, for pouring bridge decks or feeding 24/7 tunnel operations. The project team will notify impacted residents and businesses ahead of this work.

To find out more about our batch plant operations please view our fact sheet online.

Did you know?



Batch plant on Englands Road

We're using a higher than usual percentage of fly ash in our concrete for improved sustainability outcomes. Fly ash is a by-product of coal-fired power stations. This formulation requires less water and produces stronger and more durable concrete requiring less maintenance. The downside? It takes longer to set and dry.

Bridge building starting soon

There are 17 bridges being built as part of the upgrade. We are about to start construction of the first bridges near Englands Road in North Boambee Valley and near Bruxner Park Road at the new Korora Interchange site.

Piling is the first major stage of bridge building. On the bypass, we are using bored piles instead of driven piles which means they are drilled rather than hammered.

This approach helps us break through the hard argillite rock in the Coffs Harbour area and is less impactful to nearby residents by reducing noise and vibration.

Before we start piling, we build a piling pad to provide a strong and stable surface for our piling rigs. We will have two piling rigs working across the alignment until piling is complete.

The piling rig drills a cylindrical hole in the ground which is reinforced with a steel cage and filled with concrete poured on site. We over pour the pile to prevent contamination and then remove the over pour with a pneumatic drill (jackhammer).

Depending on the diameter and depth required, each pile takes up to three days to drill, install reinforcement and pour concrete.

All material removed with the piling rig is stockpiled on site and will be reused along the alignment to build up our "fill" locations. For more information, view our piling fact sheet online.

Over the next few months we will start building some of our bridge abutments, and forming and pouring some of our other concrete bridge elements, such as columns, headstocks and decks.

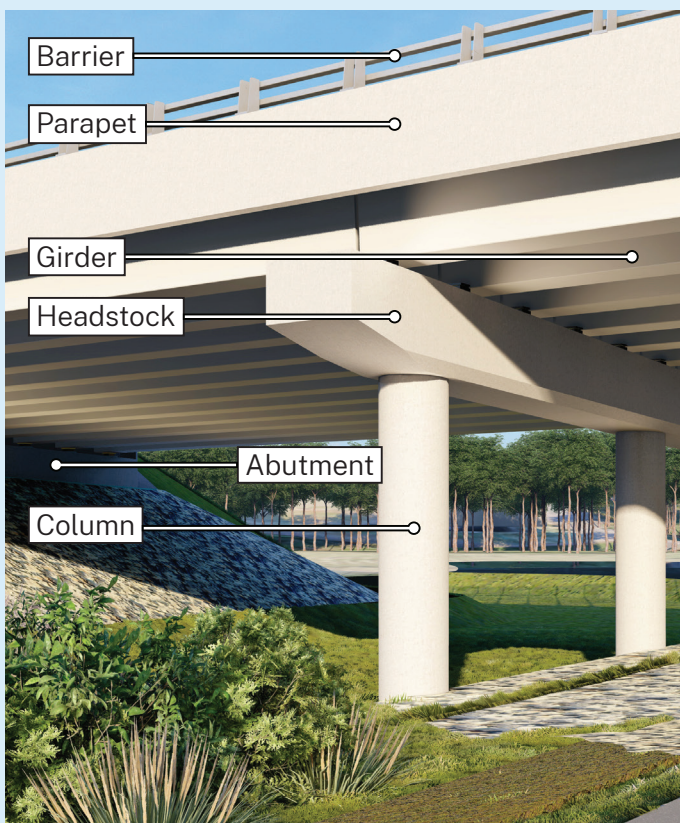
We will also have Super-T girders and parapets delivered from our precast yard via the Pacific Highway. Our Super-T girders will be delivered on oversize overmass trucks with an escort convoy.

Please use caution when sharing the road with these vehicles as they cannot stop, merge or turn quickly. We are expecting up to five super-T girder deliveries per day during peak construction.

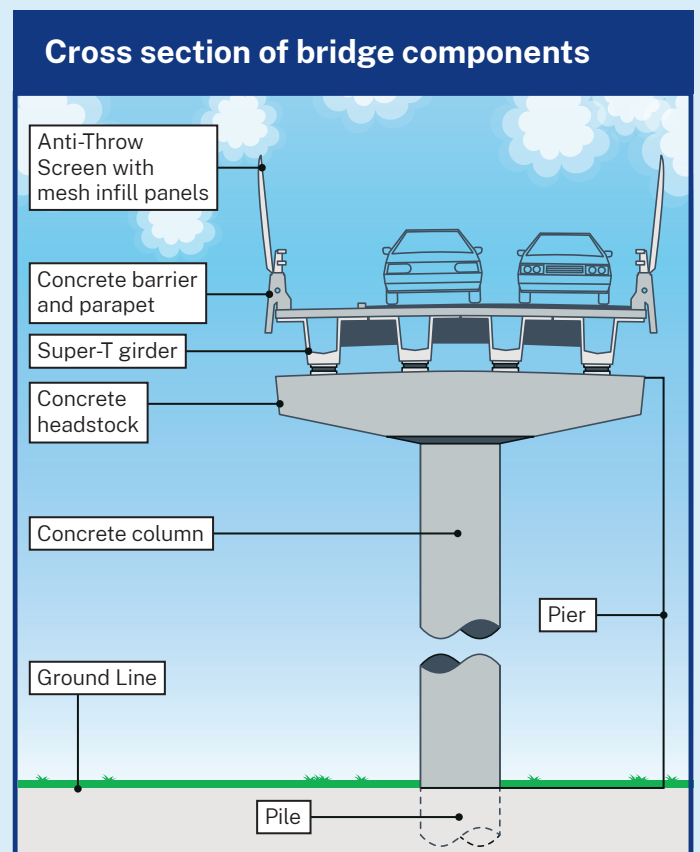
Most bridge work will take place within approved construction hours with respite periods scheduled as required under the project's approvals.

Some work, such as concrete pouring, may need to be completed outside of standard construction hours to meet temperature requirements. We will notify impacted residents separately for this work.

We expect to have all 17 bridge structures completed in 2026.



Artist impression of new bridge over North Boambee Road



Water management and drainage

We have a number of controls in place to help us responsibly manage water during construction and operation of the Coffs Harbour bypass.

Since major construction started, preventing water pollution has been a key focus for the team because we know soil, chemicals and other forms of pollution can be harmful to nearby waterways, including the Solitary Islands Marine Park, and neighbouring wildlife.

To minimise the risk of pollution, we have been installing erosion and sediment controls during the past six months. These controls help us prevent, capture and redirect site runoff.

Building roads can impede the natural flow paths of stormwater runoff and can concentrate water flows, increasing the erosive forces in the drainage network. For this reason, we consider erosion in all aspects of the construction and operation of the road and we aim to design drainage to follow existing natural patterns where possible.

Erosion and sediment controls aim to prevent or reduce soil erosion, trap and retain sediment and isolate and treat water before it enters the drainage system and surrounding waterways. Key measures used to control soil erosion and sediment include:

- Sediment basins
- Sediment fencing
- Geofabric fencing/covers
- Organic fibre mesh
- Soil binders
- Progressive revegetation (seeding) on exposed areas
- Mulch bunds for flow diversion.

We are building about 56 sediment basins for the project and about 30 of these will remain permanently after the upgrade is completed.

The team conducts regular water quality monitoring to ensure we are compliant with the project's Environment Protection License and Minister's Conditions of Approval.

For more information, please view our Construction Soil and Water Management Plan online.



Sediment basin under construction near Mackays Road

A message about safety

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.



Delineation flagging and signage on site

Coffs Harbour bypass

Traffic update

For the safety of residents and motorists, we have imposed a full time 40 kilometre per hour speed limit on some local roads that have a high level of construction activity.

We will also implement short term 40 kilometre per hour speed limit reductions in areas where we have workers on foot or construction activities near live traffic. Please use caution when driving through these areas.

Upcoming construction including out of hours work

South:

- Out of hours vegetation removal on the eastern side of the Pacific Highway south of Englands Road
- Out of hours concrete batch plant operations at Englands Road
- Out of hours box culvert deliveries near Coramba Road
- Out of hours work for services investigation along the Pacific Highway between Sawtell interchange and Englands Road

North:

- Out of hours truck deliveries to working areas at Charlesworth Bay Road, James Small Drive, Bruxner Park Road, West Korora Road and Mackays Road
- Out of hours vegetation removal on the western side of the Pacific Highway at Korora


- Out of hours work to move the intersection of the Pacific Highway and Campbell Close about 500m north
- Out of hours work to remove the median strip from south of Korora bus interchange to north of Old Coast Road
- Out of hours traffic switch to move northbound Pacific Highway traffic east to allow construction of the new northbound carriageway
- Out of hours work for construction of the new Luke Bowen Footbridge
- Start of blasting and ongoing earthwork at the cut sites to the north and south of Gatelys Road tunnel - out of hours work may be required
- 24/7 tunnel operations at Gatelys Road tunnel

Alignment wide:


- Out of hours plant and machinery maintenance and refueling is ongoing
- Start of bored piling activities during standard construction hours
- Out of hours concrete deliveries to sites across the alignment
- Out of hours precast concrete deliveries to bridge sites across the alignment


Contact us


If you have any enquiries and complaints, or would like to subscribe to our updates, please contact the project team on **1800 550 621** or **community@chbteam.com.au**.

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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**.

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