



September 2023

Controlled blasting between West Korora Road, Gatelys Road and Mackays 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 controlled blasting at the the cut site at the eastern entrance to the Gatelys Road tunnel. This will allow us to begin building the tunnel later this year.

Drilling will start from **Wednesday 6 September 2023** with the first blast expected the following week. This work will take about a year to complete, 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 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
- 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 during **standard construction hours**, specifically between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. For more information, please view our fact sheet online at pacifichighway.nsw.gov.au/coffsharbourbypass.

The safety of workers and the community is our highest priority when undertaking controlled blasting. 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. The exclusion zone is generally in place for about 15 minutes.

This is the third of 23 cuts required along the bypass where we have started controlled blasting. We are also trialing a surface mining machine at some of the project's shallower cut sites.

How will the work affect you?

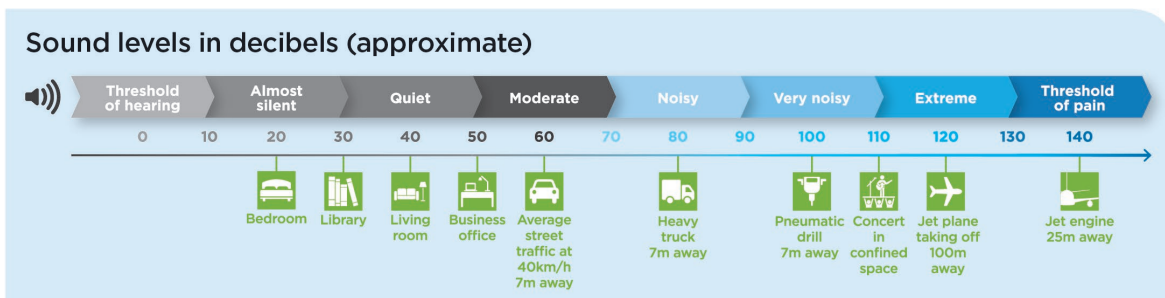
The Minister's Conditions of Approval (MCoA) for the project sets strict limits on vibration and air blast overpressure and all controlled blasts are modelled and monitored to ensure compliance. Any increase to these limits will be discussed and agreed with impacted residents and property owners before.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

We intentionally stage our controlled blasts to minimise impacts for community. There will be up to two blasts per week in this location with short stoppages on West Korora Road and Gatelys Road required during each blast. Motorists should also expect traffic control on West Korora Road to facilitate hauling within the road corridor. Please follow signage and the direction of traffic control during this time.

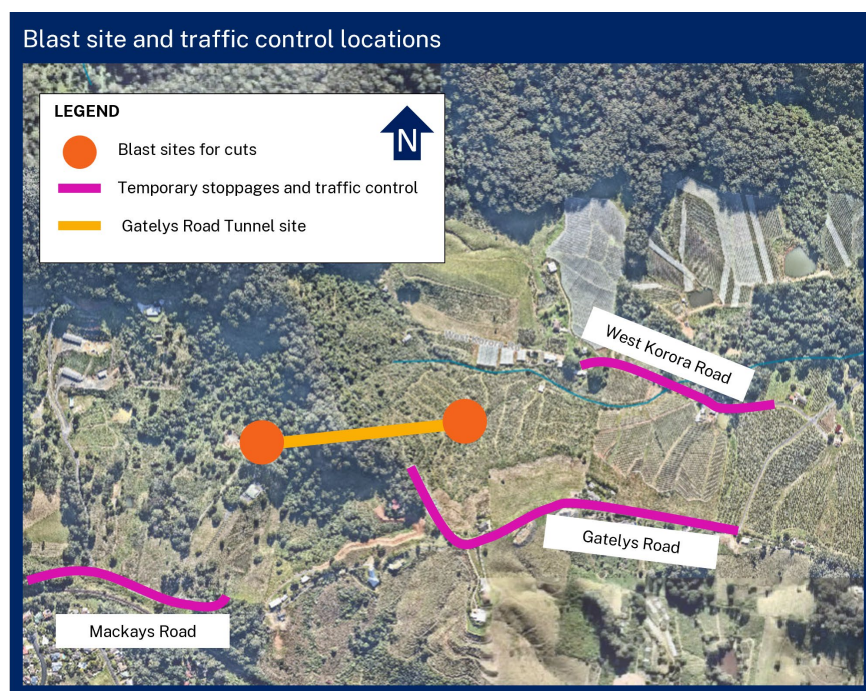
Noise from a blast is over quite quickly and can be compared to a loud clap of thunder. The project team will liaise with affected residents and property owners in advance of blasting, including weekly updates via email and SMS if requested.

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



Locations of work



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.**

Looking ahead

- From October, the project team will commence controlled blasting at the cut site forming the western entrance to Gatelys Road Tunnel (see map above). Motorists can expect traffic control and short stoppages on Mackays Road during each blast.
- Controlled blasting for tunneling is expected to start later this year at Gatelys Road Tunnel. Work inside each tunnel will take place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, however controlled blasting will only take place during standard construction hours
- 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.

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.

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.

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