

Controlled blasting near Mackays Road, Coffs Harbour

Coffs Harbour bypass

October 2023



Australian Government



Transport for NSW acknowledges the Gumbaynggirr people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past and present.

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 motorists.

As part of major construction, the Coffs Harbour bypass project is starting controlled blasting for a cut near Mackays Road from **Monday 23 October 2023**. This work will take about two-months and is expected to involve about to five controlled blasts.

What work are we doing?

Controlled blasting is used to break 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.

When and where we'll be working

Controlled blasting for this cut will be carried out during approved construction hours, specifically between **9am and 5pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays**. For more information, please read our controlled blasting factsheet at pacifichighway.nsw.gov.au/coffsharbourbypass.

Controlled blast site and traffic control locations



What will this mean for 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. 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 and short stoppages on Bruxner

Park Road during each blast. 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.

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.

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.

Managing our impacts

The project's Environment Protection Licence (EPL) sets strict limits for construction noise and we undertake regular noise monitoring to ensure compliance.

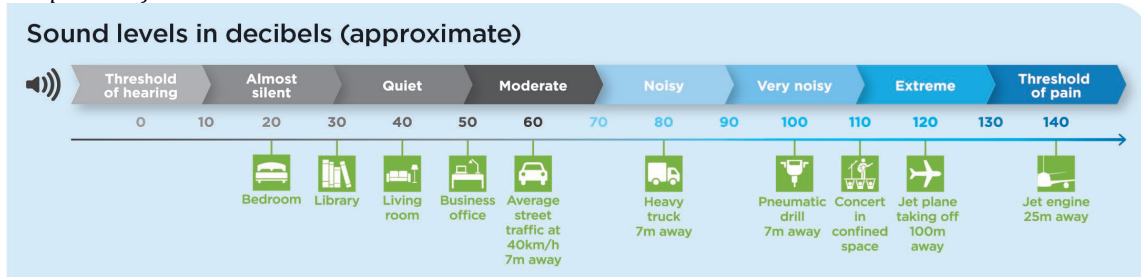
Trucks will transport the crushed rock to fill sites via Mackays Road and temporary traffic control will be in place to assist with these movements. Motorists can expect a reduced speed limit and regular delays of up to five minutes during approved construction hours.

Looking ahead

Upcoming construction work in this area includes:

- Earthwork to build the foundation of the bypass
- Activities to start building bridges including bored piling
- Out of hours truck deliveries to work areas on Mackays Road
- Out of hours refuelling and plant and machinery maintenance along the alignment.

Comparison of noise levels



Contact us



Project information and 24-hour construction response line **1800 550 621**



community@CHBteam.com.au



**pacifichighway.nsw.gov.au/
coffsharbourbypass**



PO Box 565, Toormina, NSW 2452



View our **community information van timetable**



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