



# Rock breaking work along the Pacific Highway

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 will begin using a surface mining machine to cut through and break up hard rock on the western side of the Pacific Highway between the Sawtell interchange and Englands Road.

This work will start from **Tuesday 1 August 2023** and will take up to six weeks to complete, weather permitting. This work will be carried out during standard construction hours. We have included a map to show where this work will be taking place.

The surface mining machine is being trialled to excavate hard rock in some areas rather than carrying out controlled blasting. The rock we excavate during this work will be used within the project for a nearby embankment.

## 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.**

## How will the work affect you?

The surface miner cuts and crushes the rock in a single operation, layer by layer, for improved efficiency. Using the surface mining machine in this location reduces impacts to motorists and community members because it produces less vibration and eliminates the need to stop traffic on the Pacific Highway for exclusion zones required for controlled blasting.

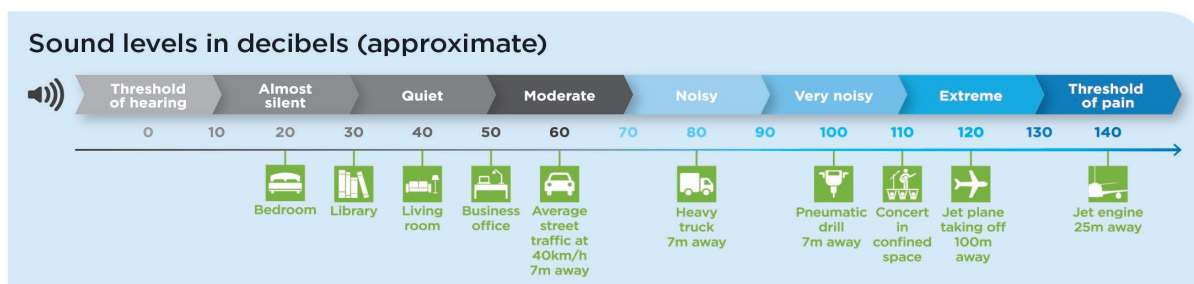
Traffic control will be required to mobilise and demobilise the machine. Motorists can expect short delays of up to five minutes during this work. Please follow the directions of signage and traffic control.

Dust will be minimised at the source with a specialised dust extraction unit. Further mitigations include regular use of watercarts and monitoring to ensure we comply with our approved management plans.

The surface mining machine can be “very noisy” as illustrated in the graphic below. The project team will carry out regular noise monitoring to ensure we comply with approved levels and will schedule respite periods.

### *Comparison of noise levels*





## 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.

Road work speed limits will be in place throughout construction of the bypass. Motorists must obey these reduced speed limits at all times for the safety of all road users, the community and the workers. For more information about the importance of motorists' driving to speed limits and conditions, read Transport for NSW's Speed factsheet at [www.transport.nsw.gov.au/system/files/media/documents/2023/speed-factsheet.pdf](http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/system/files/media/documents/2023/speed-factsheet.pdf).

## Looking ahead

Upcoming construction work in this area includes:

- Ongoing concrete batch plant operations on 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 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
- Carrying out 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.

## Contact

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