



July 2023

Controlled blasting near Bruxner Park Road, 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 earthworks for the Coffs Harbour bypass, the project team will begin drilling and controlled blasting at the cut site between Bruxner Park Road and West Korora Road. Drilling will commence **Monday 10 July** with the first trial blast expected to take place in the following weeks. This work will take about twelve months to complete, weather permitting.

Controlled blasting is used to excavate 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.

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 prior to each controlled blast and all site access points will be manned by designated blast guards to inhibit access.

How will the work affect you?

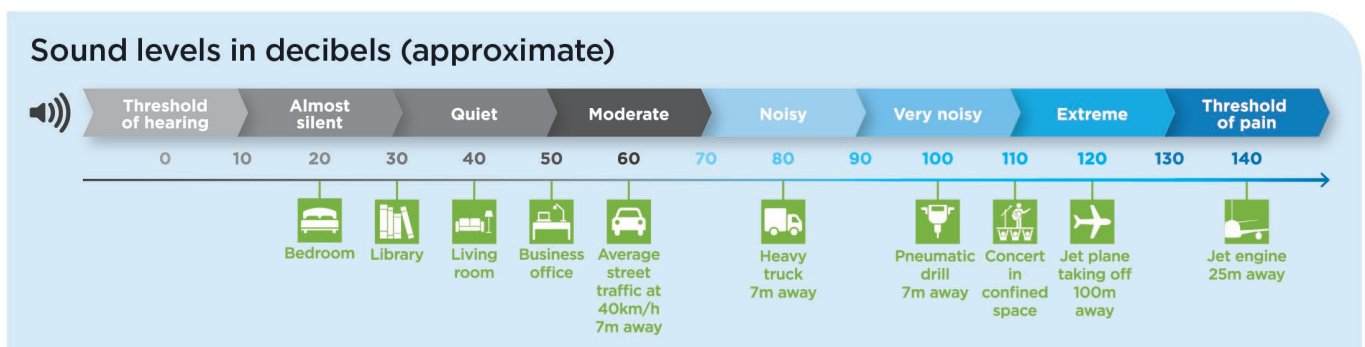
The Minister's Conditions of Approval (MCoA) for the project sets strict limits on vibration and air blast overpressure and all blasts are modelled and monitored to ensure compliance. Any increase to these limits will be discussed and agreed with all residents prior to work starting. Data from the monitoring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

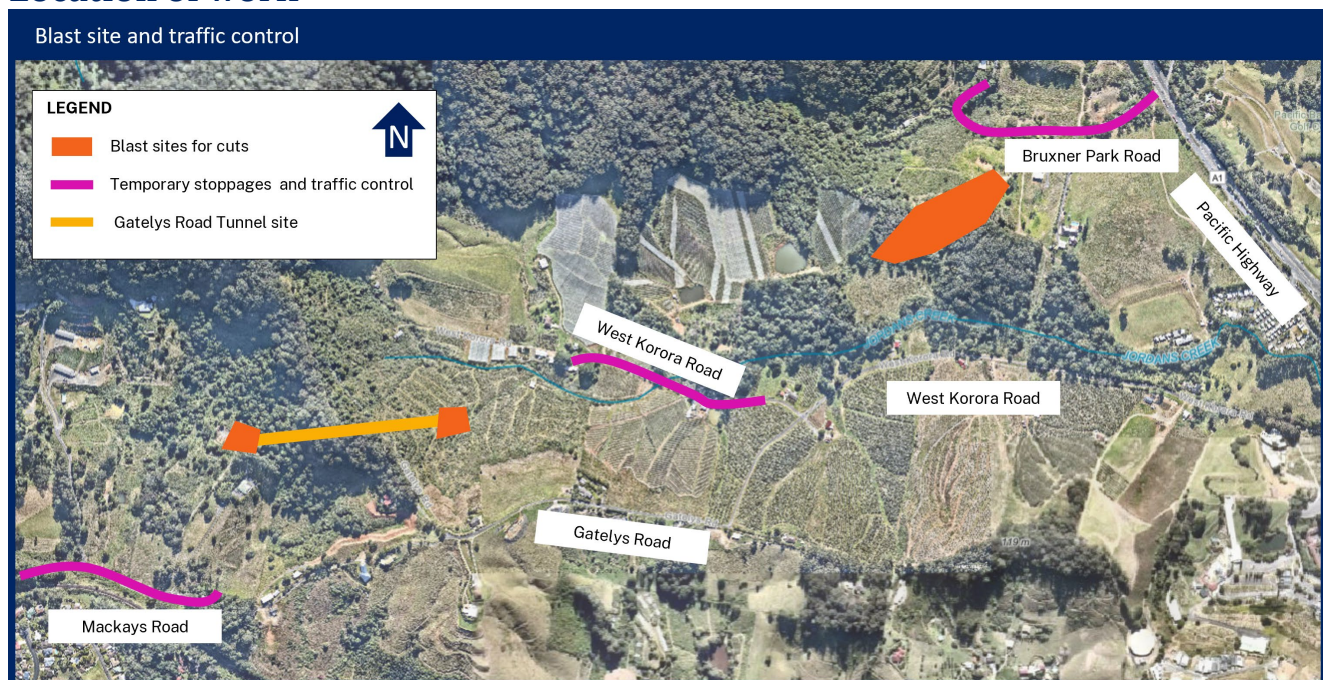
Drilling and crushing activities are constant and can be considered very noisy, as illustrated in the graphic below. All work will take place within approved construction unless approved in accordance with the project’s Environment Protection Licence. Plant and equipment will be positioned as far from 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 Bruxner Park 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 standard construction hours.

Location of work



Looking ahead

From mid-August, the project team will also commence controlled blasting at the cut site forming the eastern entrance to Gatelys Road Tunnel, near West Korora Road (see map above). Motorists can expect traffic control and short stoppages on Gatelys Road during each blast and short stoppages on West Korora Road for hauling within the road corridor.

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 in Q4 of 2023 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**.

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.**

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