

COFFS HARBOUR BYPASS (CSSI-7666)  
**ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE MONTHLY REPORT**  
November 2023

*Reporting Period: 1 to 30 November 2023*

This Environmental Representative Monthly Report has been prepared in accordance with the Minister's Condition of Approval (MCoA) A25(j) for the Coffs Harbour Bypass (CSSI-7666) and is consistent with the Environmental Representative Protocol (October 2018).

**PROJECT SUMMARY:** The construction and operation of a new multi lane road from north of Sawtell Road Interchange to Sapphire Beach, and including:

- a new four-lane divided highway with three grade-separated interchanges at England's Road (southern), Coramba Road (central) and Korora hill (northern);
- three tunnels through ridges, at Roberts hill (approximately 190m long), Shephards lane (approximately 360m long) and Gatelys road (approximately 450m long);
- structures to pass over local roads and creeks, and a bridge over the north coast railway;
- tie-in and modifications to the existing road network, to enable local road connections;
- pedestrian and cycling facilities, a shared path tying into the existing shared path on solitary islands way, and a new pedestrian bridge to replace the existing Luke Bowen footbridge;
- a new Korora public school bus interchange and a formalised bus stop at Coramba Road; and
- noise attenuation measures, fauna connectivity structures, and ancillary work.

**Works underway:**

- Main construction works:
  - establishment of site compounds and ancillary facilities;
  - installation of site controls, including fencing, signs, sediment basins, vehicle washdown bays;
  - construction of site access tracks;
  - construction of temporary drainage channels and waterway diversions;
  - bulk earthworks, including rock hammering, crushing, screening, blasting;
  - installation of permanent drainage; and
  - bridge construction.
- Low impact works (i.e., non-construction works) are ongoing, including:
  - utility relocations (i.e., water, electrical) by Coastal Works and Gosling Electrical; and
  - residential property noise treatment works.
- Other ongoing works include:
  - design refinement and detailed design;
  - threatened flora species management, including propagation and translocation; and
  - operational noise review.



## **November 2023 Works Summary**

### ***Main Construction***

- Establishment of site compounds and ancillary facilities.
- Installation of erosion and sediment controls, including sediment basins.
- Installation of construction access / egress points, including vehicle washbays for Panama disease control.
- Construction of temporary drainage channels and waterway diversions.
- Bulk earthworks, including rock hammering, crushing, screening and controlled blasting.
- Tunnel portal establishment.
- Installation of permanent drainage (e.g., cross-drainage pipes and culverts).
- Demolition of buildings and structures.
- Bridge construction, including establishment of piling pads and bored piling.
- Concrete batch plant operation.

### ***Utility Relocations***

Work on the utility relocations continued in the following locations:

- Bray Street.
- Mackays Road.
- Bruxner Park Road.
- Coachmans Close.
- Cnr James Small Drive and Pacific Highway.

Most of the utility relocation works are complete and most of the previously active work areas are in the process of being rehabilitated, revegetated (where appropriate) and stabilised.

### ***Residential Property Noise Treatment Works***

- 619 receivers were identified in the EIS Amendment Report as being potentially eligible for noise treatment works. Ground truthing has found that 14 properties are in an ineligible subdivision, 153 are unbuilt residential properties (located in an eligible subdivision), and 53 buildings do not require treatment (e.g., non-habitable). Furthermore, 32 additional properties have been identified for treatment and 51 properties have declined/postponed the treatment offer. Therefore, there are 380 properties to be treated.
- Builders contracts have been awarded for 343 properties and 332 properties have been treated. It is anticipated that 343 properties will be treated by the end of 2023.
- There are 30 properties where treatment cannot be provided without impacting asbestos. To ensure the safety of the residents and contractors during the removal of asbestos, TfNSW has engaged specialist contractors to review the condition of the properties, the scope of work for noise treatments and the proposed work methods. The initial inspections have commenced.
- There are 4 properties with electrical supply issues that require further investigation. Electrical supply for two of these properties has been resolved. TfNSW is working in consultation with the homeowner and Essential Energy to resolve the remaining two properties.
- There are 2 schools and 1 place of worship that require additional investigation and noise modelling to be finalised based on the Operational Noise Review.



### ***Threatened Species Management***

- New plant species (Fontainea, Pittosporum) management was ongoing, including propagation of plants in nurseries for future planting in translocation sites.
- An updated version of the Threatened Species Management Plan is in the process of being finalised, prior to submission to DPE for information.

### **December 2023 Upcoming Works**

#### ***Main Construction***

- Establishment of site compounds and ancillary facilities.
- Installation of erosion and sediment controls, including sediment basins.
- Installation of construction access / egress points, including vehicle washbays for Panama disease control.
- Construction of temporary drainage channels and waterway diversions.
- Bulk earthworks, including rock hammering, crushing, screening and controlled blasting.
- Tunnel portal establishment.
- Installation of drainage structures (e.g., cross-drainage pipes and culverts).
- Demolition of buildings and structures.
- Bridge construction, including establishment of piling pads and bored piling.
- Concrete batch plant operation.

#### ***Utility Relocations***

Installation of new electrical infrastructure will continue along Bray Street / Mackays Road, as well as DP18 electrical works (adjacent to Pacific Bay Resort and Banana Coast Caravan Park) involving tying conduits into the existing power conduits, running and connecting cables and installing new pillars for a private feed to Pacific Bay Resort.

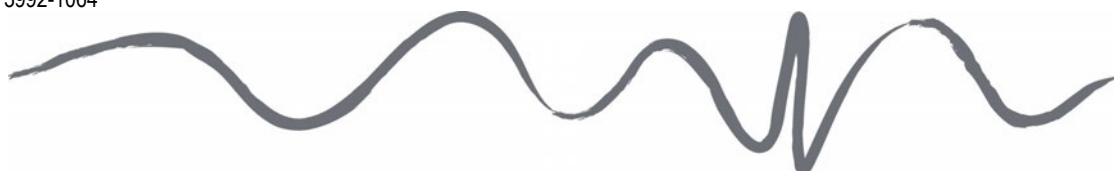
Most of the utility relocation works are complete and most of the previously active work areas are in the process of being rehabilitated, revegetated (where appropriate) and stabilised.

#### ***Residential Property Noise Treatment Works***

- Finalisation of the scope of noise treatment works will continue at the remaining properties.
- Implementation of noise treatment works will continue.
- A draft report has been prepared on the non-implementation of operational noise mitigation measures, as required by MCoA E50. It is expected that this report will be finalised and submitted to DPE in December.

### ***Threatened Species Management***

- New plant species (Fontainea, Pittosporum) management will continue, including propagation of plants in nurseries for future planting in translocation sites.
- An updated version of the Threatened Species Management Plan is in the process of being finalised, prior to submission to DPE for information.



## **ER Activity**

### **Reviews / Approvals / Advice**

- OOHW Application (FGJV #45) – Luke Bowen Footbridge, Korora – Contingency for concrete pours for the piles to extend into the evening: Review and approve.
- OOHW Application (FGJV #52) – Gatelys Rd and Shephards Ln tunnels – Early morning start for spraying of shotcrete to meet quality requirements during hot weather: Review and provide comments.
- Ancillary Site Establishment Management Plan – Site 1J, Englands Rd: Review and endorse.
- MCoA E50 Report on non-implementation of operational noise mitigation measures: Review and provide comments.
- Monthly Acoustic Advisor (AA) Report (October): Review.
- Weekly community complaints register: Review.

### **Site Inspections**

Site inspections occurred on:

- 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 with the AA and TfNSW, IC and EPA representatives; and
- 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 with TfNSW, EPA and DPE representatives

### **Meetings / Workshops**

- A Monthly Project Update Meeting was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023, with the AA and DPE, TfNSW, EPA and FGJV representatives. Some participants attended the meeting in person, while others connected via video call.
- Weekly meetings with the AA, DPE and environment and community representatives from TfNSW and FGJV are ongoing.

### **Reports**

- MCoA A25(j): Environmental Representative Monthly Report (October 2023) – Prepared and submitted to DPE (Infrastructure Management & Compliance) via Major Projects Portal on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

## **Environmental Performance**

### **Stop Work Notices**

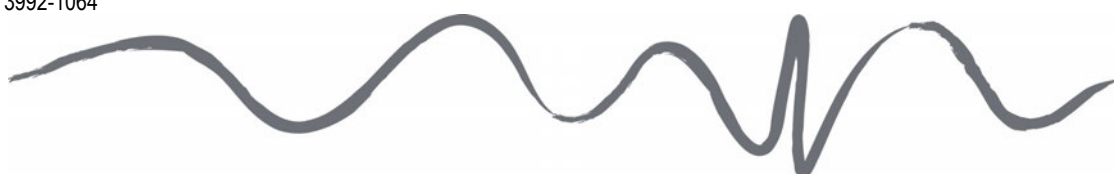
There were no Stop Work Notices.

### **Incidents (as per MCoA definition)**

There were no incidents.

### **Non-compliances**

There were no non-compliances.



***Environmental Events (i.e., not classified as Incidents)***

- Sediment was deposited outside the approved construction boundary in the vicinity of Spagnolos Rd during a significant rainfall event on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The site received intense rainfall (20.6 mm in a 10 min period) at approximately 6:30pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> November and there was a total of 84.4mm of rainfall throughout the event. Failure to install a lined batter chute to direct run off to the perimeter control resulted in scouring, overtopping of the perimeter control and a subsequent deposition of sediment outside the approved construction footprint. The deposited sediment remained within 15 m of the project boundary and was situated on open agricultural paddocks with grass cover. There was no identified impact to native vegetation or waterways. Progressive Erosion and Sediment Control Plans for the area were updated to include additional batter chutes. These batter chutes were installed, the capacity of the mulch perimeter bund was reinstated, and a perimeter bund was installed on the edge of the fill platform. Clean up of the sediment on private property was undertaken on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in consultation with the landowner.

***Positive Observations / Lessons Learnt / Opportunities for Improvement***

Positive Observation – In many locations, soil binder and hydromulch held up well during the significant rainfall events in late October and early November. Soil binder has been especially effective on trimmed and compacted batters (e.g. Fill 3B). The effectiveness of the soil binder and hydromulch indicates specification of appropriate products by the project team and the utilisation of skilled and experienced contractors for application of the products.

**Changes to the Project**

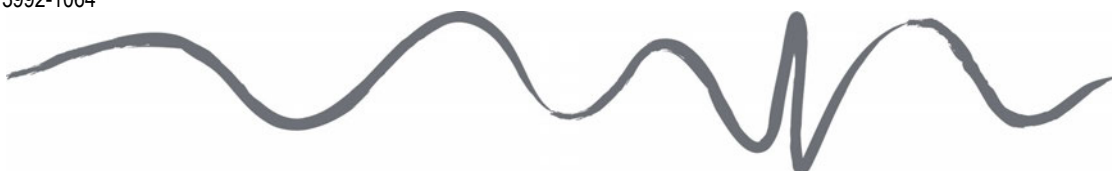
***Documentation***

No changes this month.

**Community Consultation and Complaints**

***FGJV Consultation Summary***

- Issued the Community Engagement External Satisfaction Survey via Facebook, email, and the website. About 365 people completed the survey and about 82% of people ranged from neutral to very satisfied with construction of the bypass, with a score of 3.8 for engagement.
- Finalised the December Project Update which focused on the release of the draft Place Design and Landscape Plan. The project update will be distributed from Monday 4 December and the consultation period for the plan will run from Friday 8 - Friday 22 December, with six information sessions booked in this time in addition to the community information van.
- Released external-facing report card providing an update on construction progress, aerial photography and stories about community engagement, safety and environment initiatives.
- Responded to a media enquiry from ABC News regarding asbestos management on site.
- Attended 7 community sessions and spoke with about 170 people in November. This included one weekend popup at the Harbourside Markets which about 115 people visited.
- Weekly updates were distributed every Friday in November advising the community about upcoming traffic changes, controlled blasting and community information van locations.



- The team presented a progress update to Rotary Coffs Harbour and supported in the delivery of presentations to Coffs Coast Safety Network, Institute of Public Works and Engineering Australia, International Erosion Control Australasia Conference and a local inter-agency meeting about Aboriginal employment options.
- The team facilitated a site visit with a student from Bishop Druitt College who was able to detonate a controlled blast at Cut 4.
- The team attended seven meetings with stakeholders in November. Key themes included dust and meetings with the independent acoustic advisor re vibration and noise.
- The team attended a meeting with Bishop Druitt College to discuss at-source noise treatment, upcoming construction including blasting and opportunities for engagement with project team.

### ***FGJV Notifications***

- North: Out of hours concrete pours for bridges in Korora
- North: Construction work on the Pacific Highway, Korora November 2023
- North: Tunnel portal work outside of approved construction hours November 2023
- North: Median strip removal near Charlesworth Bay Road
- South: Out of hours concrete pours between Englands Road and Buchanans Road (letter)
- South: Out of hours concrete barrier removal between Englands Road and North Boambee Road (letter)
- South: Out of hours concrete pours and bridge piling near North Boambee Road (letter)
- Alignment wide: Haulage of piling rig from Korora to Boambee

### ***TfNSW Consultation Summary***

Engagement with resident on Old Coast Road regarding the replacement of the water pump that was stolen from their property. TfNSW had previously committed to relocate the pump prior to the commencement of construction.

Ongoing interaction with the berry farmer on Bruxner Park Road regarding potential dust impacts to his farm.

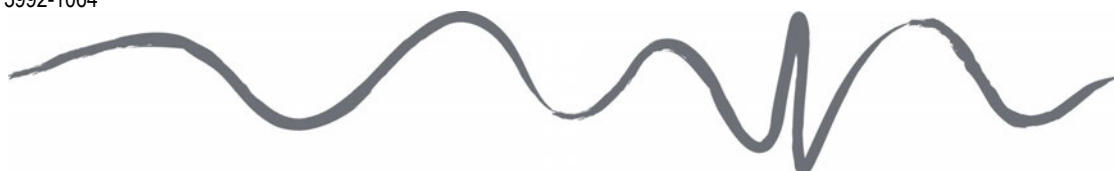
Regarding noise treatment at residences, communication has been established with all property owners whose premises contain asbestos. Inspections have been scheduled with a building specialist for early December.

### ***TfNSW Notifications***

- No notifications for the month of November

### ***Complaints and Enquiries***

There were more than 330 interactions with stakeholders during November, with 17 complaints and 18 enquiries managed by the team. Trending themes include property damage, at-house noise treatment, traffic safety and access.

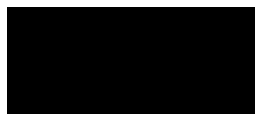


**Closing Remarks**

The FGJV team has continued to make good progress with earthworks, drainage installation and bored piling. Periods of dry and windy weather continue to pose challenges associated with dust generation. There is a heavy reliance on the use of water carts for dust suppression in areas with active earthworks. There are some locations where earthworks appear to now be at design level and will remain in place for the medium to long term before pavement works commence. In these locations, it has been discussed and recommended during recent site inspections that the project team should consider delineating heavy vehicle (HV) & light vehicle (LV) traffic lanes and applying soil binder to adjacent non-trafficable areas.

The significant rainfall event in late October (120mm+) was followed by another significant rainfall event in early November (80mm+). A site inspection was undertaken two days after the November rainfall event. In general, the erosion and sediment controls were observed to be working as intended, with the majority of dirty site runoff directed to sediment basins. In the majority of locations, the erosion and sediment controls are considered to be appropriate and effective.

The team is in a routine of typically undertaking 3 to 5 controlled blasts per week spread across several locations, and these blasts are considered to be well planned and managed. The utility relocation works are almost finished, with the key remaining work being the installation of new electrical infrastructure along Bray St and Mackays Rd. Other utility relocation work areas are in the process of being rehabilitated and stabilised. A project report card was initiated during the month, with the first report card issued to the community in mid November. This report card is a good way to keep the community informed of project progress. Overall, environmental management of the project continues to be satisfactory, with most of the issues identified during site inspections being considered low risk.



CHB Environmental Representative

**GeoLINK**



CHB Environmental Representative

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Attachment: Photos from Site Inspections – November 2023



Photos from Site Inspections – November 2023



**Image 1: Roberts Hill tunnel north portal (Ch13700) – Earthworks at tunnel entrance and hydromulch above**



**Image 2: Spagnolos Rd, Fill 8 (Ch15700) – Earthworks**



**Image 3: Shephards Ln tunnel north portal (Ch17300) – Good establishment of cover crop following hydromulching**



**Image 4: West Korora Rd, north side (Ch19800) – Rock crushing operation**





**Image 5: Bruxner Park Rd / Pac Hwy intersection (Ch20800) – Construction of major stormwater drainage pit**



**Image 6: Bruxner Park Rd / Pac Hwy intersection (Ch20900) – Bridge 19 piles**



**Image 7: Fill 18, Korora Hill (Ch21800) – Sediment basin construction and adjacent earthworks**



**Image 8: Pine Brush Ck, Bridge 21 (Ch22300) – Installation of creek diversion**

