Project Update

The Australian and NSW governments are jointly funding the 22km Nambucca Heads to Urunga Pacific Highway upgrade. The project will deliver a four-lane divided road and is one of five major projects upgrading a 105km section between Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour.

Project update

Major work is well advanced and the project is on track to open to traffic in 2016, weather permitting.

During 2014 significant progress was made including:

- Moving more than two million cubic metres of earth and completing 85 per cent of earthworks
- Construction taking place on 29 of the 37 bridges
- Opening the new local access road between Deep Creek and East West Road
- Completing bridge decks at Cow Creek and Martells Road
- Successfully installing 30 of the 50 bridge beams across the Kalang River.

Since returning to work in 2015 the project has:

- Opened the first bridge at Ballards Road to traffic
- Sealed the first section of the alignment north of the Kalang River bridges in preparation for concrete paving
- Finished installing all 50 of the bridge girders over the Kalang River.

Community information

Start of concrete paving

In the first half of 2015 mainline paving work will start. The first section paved will be north of the Kalang River towards Short Cut Road.

A typical paving operation includes the batching, delivery, tipping, spreading, compacting and finishing of the concrete.

Working with concrete provides a number of challenges and to achieve the highest quality road pavement some activities are done out of hours.

The project team must allow the concrete to set under the right temperatures, provide adequate
curing conditions and complete saw cutting to control the cracking of the concrete.

These conditions are generally better achieved out of normal work hours when the temperatures are cooler.

This work is transient in nature, which means it moves quickly along the project so any impact to residents will only for be for a short period of time. Those residents potentially affected will receive information directly.

An onsite batch plant is used to mix concrete on site. This enables the project team to control the production rate and delivery of concrete in line with the paving operation progress. This also enables the majority of concrete to be hauled along the alignment rather than using local roads when possible.

Bridge beams for the overbridge at Valla Road
It is planned to install the bridge beams for the overbridge at Valla Road in late May, weather permitting. A temporary detour over a few days will be in place via Deep Creek Road while this work takes place.

More information will be made available directly to affected residents closer to the date the change takes place.

Traffic switches
In the first half of 2015 the project team is planning to move traffic onto the new Short Cut Road overbridge and the new South Arm Road intersection with Short Cut Road.

The project team is also planning to move traffic onto a new section of road to the east of the existing Pacific Highway near the Waterfall Way interchange.

Both of these switches will involve some changes to traffic movements to allow work to safely take place. More information about the changes will be made available to directly affected residents and road users closer to the date.

New work between March and May 2015:
- Continue preparing the foundations of the new alignment for concrete paving
- Finish bridge decks over Northern Rail Line and start hauling material over new bridge. This will help reduce construction traffic on the Pacific Highway and Old Coast Road
- Open the local road between Boggy and Cow Creeks
- Switch highway traffic onto the Cow Creek Bridge and remove the old Cow Creek Bridge on the existing Pacific Highway in mid 2015
- Start work at the intersection of the existing Pacific Highway and East West Road
- Open the new local road between Burke Lane and East West Road during March 2015, weather permitting. Open the new local road north of Burke Lane, weather permitting. This road is between Burke Lane and Little Newry State Forest
• Open the new Pacific Highway intersection with Ballards Road and the highway to 80km/h in this section by August 2015
• Open Martells Road overbridge to traffic and remove the temporary section of Martells Road
• Open the new local road bridge off South Arm Road to residents
• Change traffic conditions on Short Cut Road and Waterfall Way
• Start highway concrete paving work from Ballards Road to Waterfall Way.

Ongoing work:
• Continue bulk earthwork across the whole alignment
• Continue pavement drainage work along the whole alignment
• Continue landscaping and vegetation across the whole alignment
• Continue installing and monitoring of environmental controls
• Continue work on Nambucca interchange, including work near existing Pacific Highway
• Continue hauling of material across Boggy Creek and Valla roads
• Continue work on the East West Road Bridge. Detours for East West Road and Burkes Lane traffic will be via Deep Creek Road and Burkes Lane until this bridge is completed late 2015
• Continue work at the Ballards Road and existing Pacific Highway intersection
• Continue operation of concrete batching facility with deliveries out of Ballards Road. Operation of this facility may be 24 hours a day
• Continue drilling and blasting in Newry State Forest and crushing work, including delivery of the crushed material to other parts of project
• Continue bridge work for all bridges across the alignment

• Building minor secondary facilities, including storage and stockpile areas.

Major work hours
Typical work hours are Monday to Friday from 7am to 6pm and Saturday from 8am to 1pm. Through sparsely populated areas, where residents live more than 300 metres from the project boundary, major work is allowed from 6am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 4pm Saturdays.

Out of hours work
The project team consulted with directly affected residents in some areas and gained approval for out of hours work from 6am to 8pm, Monday to Friday, and 7am to 5pm on Saturday.

At times the community may see additional work taking place outside of these hours. The project team seeks prior agreement from directly affected stakeholders for these activities.

The project team will continue to consult with affected residents in regards to all out-of-hours activities.

Community information and display centre
The display centre at Ballards Road is open from Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, excluding public holidays. We encourage you to visit us and learn more about the project and provide us any feedback.

More than 600 visitors have already made their way to the display centre by following the signs to the main site compound.

Project information
For more information, call the toll free project information line on 1800 800 612, email NH2U@lendlease.com or visit the project website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/pacific.