Nambucca Heads to Urunga
Project update
March 2016

The Australian and NSW governments are jointly funding the $780 million Nambucca Heads to Urunga Pacific Highway upgrade. The project is due for completion later this year and following is an update on construction activities.

General update - traffic changes

Motorists will notice a number of traffic changes around the project during the coming months. Road users are reminded to stay aware, follow all directions of traffic controllers and signage and drive to the conditions of the road.

Pacific Highway traffic has recently moved to a temporary roadway, east of the Nambucca Heads interchange to allow work on the new interchange to be completed.

In April, traffic on the Pacific Highway will travel over a new section of road near Cow Creek. This will enable the removal of the existing highway over the creek.

Changes will also be made around the Waterfall Way interchange. This section of the highway upgrade has been carefully staged to allow work to build the intersection with minimal impact to traffic flow on the highway.

East West Road bridge

The intersection of East West Road and the Pacific Highway opened to traffic in December 2015, removing a detour which had been in place for 12 months.

The new bridge provides a link from the existing Pacific Highway to East West Road and the adjacent access roads.

When the new highway is open to traffic later this year, the existing Pacific Highway will be handed over to Council and will become a local road. Only local traffic will use the existing highway, which will significantly reduce the amount of traffic travelling past the East West Road intersection. The local road will have a permanent speed limit of 90km/h, allowing all turning movements at the intersection to be made safely.

The intersection of Deep Creek Road and the Pacific Highway is now permanently closed to allow the new highway to be built in this area.

Paving

The main activity across the project is the placement of concrete pavement. Two large concrete pavers are working across the site and have placed more than 30km of concrete pavement for the new road. It is
expected that most of the paving for the roadways will be completed in April 2016, weather permitting. Work will continue on the road shoulders when the mainline paving is complete.

With the new pavement finished, all the activities associated with preparing the road for traffic will begin. These activities take several months to complete and it is expected that the upgrade will be open to traffic mid to late this year.

**Project landscaping**

Landscaping across the project is progressing well (pictured below), with all planting in waterways and fauna crossings completed last year. Planting for privacy screening continues across the project, with more than 31,000 plants being planted to date. More than 143,000 plants and trees will be planted as part of the project along with four tonnes of cover crop seeding mix.

**Work outside standard hours**

The project team recently consulted with directly affected residents about proposed out of hours activities between February and July 2016.

While the project team prefers to work during the approved work hours of 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays, there are some activities which can only be completed outside these times. We always put in place measures to minimise the impact of these activities for our neighbours.

This includes minimising heavy machinery interaction, planning work to reduce the amount of reversing, installing quieter reversing alarms on trucks and monitoring of noise during the work.

**Community information session**

The project team will hold a community information session for the Nambucca Heads to Urunga Pacific Highway upgrade on Thursday 17 March 2016. The session will be held at the site office on Ballards Road, Urunga between 4pm and 8pm.

Team members from Roads and Maritime Services and Lendlease will be available to provide an update and answer questions.

The directional signage package will be on display during the session. This package shows the location and wording on all new signage for the upgraded highway. This includes all guide, approved tourist, advanced direction, exit and reassurance signs.

Feedback on the signs can be provided directly to project team members at the session.

**Waterfall Way Action Plan**

In September 2014 there was an increase in the number of trucks travelling along Waterfall Way as they delivered quarry material to the project.

To demonstrate how the project would ensure the safe transport of material, the Waterfall Way Action Plan was implemented.

This plan detailed a number of actions which would ensure drivers delivering material to the project were respectful of other road users on Waterfall Way, maintained safe driving behaviours and were monitored regularly.

At the end of December 2015, about 1.36 million tonnes of material had been delivered to the project, representing 97 per cent of haulage complete. The remaining material for the Nambucca Heads to Urunga Pacific Highway upgrade project is now being sourced from alternative locations. Transport of material is no longer expected along Waterfall Way.

There will still be trucks which are not associated with the project using Waterfall Way and any act of unsafe driving by a truck driver on Waterfall Way can be reported to local police.

For more information about the project please contact the community relations team on:

**Phone: 1800 800 612**