

Emu races during construction

June 2017

Part of the Pacific Highway upgrade, between Glenugie and Tyndale, is being built in known coastal emu areas. The Woolgoolga to Ballina project team has installed temporary emu exclusion fencing either side of the highway and provided a number of options for emus to safely cross construction zones. Our aim is to maintain emu crossing zones while we build the new road and to provide access to important habitats on both sides of the highway.

Temporary fencing is used to build an emu passageway or 'race' to direct emus across the entire width of the construction corridor. The race is established perpendicular to the road with a total of nine emu races built near proposed bridge sites. When the bridges are built they will replace the races as emu crossing points.

When the bridges in the project area are finished the emu exclusion fencing will connect with the bridge to channel the emus to cross safely underneath the bridges.

At the start of each work day temporary gates on either side of the race are closed and then re-opened at the end of each work day allowing emus to cross. The gates also stay open on non-work days such as Sunday, wet days and public holidays.

Experienced ecologists are closely monitoring the emu population using a range of techniques set out in the Emu Management plan. The monitoring program will continue through construction and into the operational phase of the highway upgrade.



A coastal emu captured by a motion sensor camera using an emu race (June 2017)