

November 2017

## **Start of piling and bridge work on Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade for Broadwater to Coolgardie Road**

**The Australian and NSW governments are jointly funding the \$4.36 billion Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade. Roads and Maritime Services Pacific Highway Project Office and Pacific Complete are working together to deliver the project.**

Recently, major civil work has started in the Broadwater to Pimlico section of the upgrade and activities to start building the new road are progressing well. Roads and Maritime Services has awarded contracts to Australian Foundation Solutions and Quickway Construction to carry out piling work and build bridges for the Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade between Richmond River and Coolgardie Road. Piling work will start from late November and bridge work will start from early December, weather permitting. Piling and bridge work will be carried out for about 12 months, weather permitting. Work will be carried out progressively at a number of locations. We have provided a map to show the locations of work.

### **What is piling?**

Piling is a method used to create a stable foundation for bridges, structures and buildings. Piling transfers the weight of the structure deeper into the ground. Piles are large columns generally made from reinforced concrete or steel.

All material for the piling, including concrete, will be delivered to the required location via trucks and semi-trailers. While the start of piling will be a staged approach, there is expected to be about 30 truck movements of materials per day at each bridge location.

As much as possible, materials will be moved within the project alignment to reduce the number of construction vehicles on local roads.

The depth and time for piling in each area will depend on ground conditions, the size of the bridges and numbers of piles needed. Piling work will include:

- Surveying and flagging work areas and installing environmental controls
- Building platforms for piling rigs
- Installing piles and pile caps.

The bridges between Broadwater and Coolgardie Road will have a combination of driven piles and bored piles.

Constructing a pile into the ground can typically take between one and two days to complete depending on the length and size. Piles vary in length depending on the ground conditions and are driven or bored into the ground using a combination of cranes, piling rigs and vibrating and percussion hammers.

**Driven piling** involves vibrating and/or hammering steel tubes into the ground.



**Bored piling** involves boring a circular hole in the ground, installing steel reinforcement and filling the bore hole with concrete to form a pile.



## Bridge work

All material for the bridges including concrete will be delivered to the required location by trucks. Overall there is expected to be regular deliveries of materials for this work, including semi-trailer trucks carrying steel reinforcing and precast concrete pieces for the new bridges.

Up to 20 concrete agitator truck deliveries may be expected daily along the main haul road on the alignment and some local roads. Materials will be moved within the project boundary as much as possible to reduce the number of construction vehicles on local roads. To ensure we are ready for bridge work to start, access and haulage roads have been built and several intersections along the project have been improved.

## Access points for heavy vehicles

Access points for heavy vehicles in the Broadwater to Coolgardie section include:

- Old Bagotville Road
- Wardell Road
- Coolgardie Road.

## What is involved?

There are about 170 bridges being built as part of the Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade. There will be 13 bridges built between Broadwater and Coolgardie Road. While some bridges are designed to provide flood mitigation in specific locations, others will ensure local road access and essential connectivity for native animals, as required in the project's approved Koala Management Plan.

## How will the work affect you?

Our work will be noisy at times and may cause some disturbance. Piling can create increased noise and vibration levels and it is likely you will be able to hear piling activities if they are near your property. We will carry out noise and vibration monitoring throughout this work. We will also carry out noise mitigation to minimise the impact of our work, where possible, including the use of respite periods.

We do not expect piling to have an impact on buildings around our work area, however driven piling can create vibrations. As part of the driven piling activities, all properties within 500 metres of vibration work are offered a property condition survey.

This survey is carried out before driven piling starts and involves an inspection of the interior and exterior of the property, including any external structures such as sheds, driveways, pathways, swimming pools, dams, fences and retaining walls.

In the unlikely event that damage does occur, the survey can help demonstrate if this was a result of activities in the area. Most of the property conditions surveys for the upgrade have already been completed and a copy of the survey provided to landowners.

### Where is bridge work occurring?

Piling work will start from late November, weather permitting. Bridge work will start from early December, weather permitting.

Locations and timeframes for piling and bridge work are indicative and may change due to program requirements and weather conditions. We will continue to keep the community updated on this work.

### Traffic changes

There will be temporary traffic changes to ensure safety of road users while machines including piling rigs and cranes move to site. This may affect travel times. Please keep to the speed limits and follow signs and traffic controllers' directions.

For the latest traffic updates, you can call 132 701, visit [livetraffic.com](http://livetraffic.com) or download the Live Traffic NSW App.

We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience during this important work.

### Work hours

Typically work will be carried out during the project's approved construction hours, which are from **Monday to Friday** between **7am and 6pm** and on **Saturday** between **8am and 5pm**.

In areas where residents live more than 200 metres from the work area, extended work hours are allowed from Monday to Friday between 6am and 7am and 6pm and 7pm. Nearby residents will be notified at least five working days in advance of any activities scheduled outside of these working hours.

### For more information

If you have any questions, please call the Woolgoolga to Ballina project toll free line on 1800 778 900 (dial 1), email [W2B@pacificcomplete.com.au](mailto:W2B@pacificcomplete.com.au) or visit the project website [rms.nsw.gov.au/W2B](http://rms.nsw.gov.au/W2B).



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 778 900.