

Community Update



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

OCTOBER 2012

Upgrading the Pacific Highway Woolgoolga to Ballina

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is continuing with the upgrade of the Pacific Highway from Woolgoolga to Ballina. This flyer provides an update on the proposed upgrade including work currently being done along the proposed alignment, information about a proposed extension to work hours during construction of the project and a reminder about our mailing list.

Project update

Both the Federal and State governments have provided funding to prepare the 155 kilometres Woolgoolga to Ballina section of the highway for construction. This includes property acquisition, refining the concept design, an environmental assessment of the refined design and further geotechnical and environmental investigations.

Timing of construction is dependent on funding negotiations between the State and Federal governments.

RMS has formed an alliance with Sinclair Knight Merz and Aurecon to prepare a concept design and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Additional field investigations

As part of the upgrade, survey and geotechnical investigations are being carried out along the 155 kilometre length of the project. Contracts were awarded and work started in March 2012.

Robert Carr and Associates is carrying out investigations between Woolgoolga and Glenugie, Coffey/GHD between Glenugie and Devils Pulpit and Golder Associates/ARUP between Devils Pulpit and Ballina.

The geotechnical work involves sampling soil and rock quality that will design the new highway.

Information collected from these investigations will be used during the detailed design phase of the upgrade. The geotechnical investigations are expected to be complete in early 2013.

Survey and geotechnical investigations are underway in parallel to the (EIS) being prepared by the project team.

Detailed design

A contract has been awarded to the joint venture comprising the firms Arup and Parsons Brinckerhoff for the detailed design of the 31 kilometre Woolgoolga to Glenugie section of the Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade.

RMS is preparing the detailed design for this section of the upgrade in parallel to the EIS. This will enable construction to start as soon as funding becomes available.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The EIS will include results from field investigations including studies of flora and fauna and heritage items. It will also include studies on noise, air quality, hydrology and community consultation. Issues raised by the community and stakeholders during the refined concept display held in 2011, have been reviewed and addressed as part of the EIS.

The EIS will be on display for community comment in the coming months. Displays and community information sessions will be held at numerous locations along the proposed alignment.

All comments made during the EIS display period will become part of a submissions report.

Woolgoolga to Ballina Planning Alliance

A team consisting of the Roads and Maritime Services, SKM and Aurecon.

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This project is funded by the State and Federal governments.



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The report will be submitted to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for project approval.

Further information on the dates, locations of displays and information sessions will be sent to everyone on the project database by mail and email closer to the date of these events.

Property acquisition reminder

If you have been contacted by RMS regarding acquisition and you are interested in starting the acquisition process, please contact RMS Project Development Manager, Mr Garry McPherson, at the Pacific Highway office (contact details below).

Ongoing consultation with the community

Earlier this year the project team engaged with several communities along the alignment to provide a project update and the opportunity to ask questions, about design changes since the refined concept design displayed in October 2011.

Flood focus groups have also been formed for the Richmond and Clarence River floodplains. These groups have met to discuss flooding issues and impacts in key areas of the project. The information collected from these groups has provided important input into the development of the hydrology report which forms part of the EIS.

One-on-one meetings are continuing with property owners along the alignment as well as continued liaison with key stakeholders.

If you would like to meet with the project team, please contact us (details below).

Proposed extension to construction hours

As part of the planning process for the upgrade, RMS is seeking approval from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure as part of the environmental assessment to extend construction working hours.

The proposed extended construction hours would reduce disruption to motorists, shorten construction time and make the most of natural light in the spring/ summer months.

Standard construction working hours for projects on the Pacific Highway are:

- Monday to Friday between 7am to 6pm.
- Saturday, between 8am to 1pm.

The proposed extended construction hours would extend construction noise impacts for an additional two hours on weekdays and four hours on Saturdays. The proposed hours are:

- Monday to Friday, between 6am to 7pm.
- Saturday, between 8am to 5pm.

Noisy work would be scheduled for mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Noise screens, sound enclosures and noise control methods will be used where possible.

Further information and detail on the noise impacts will be included in the Construction Noise and Vibration Assessment report which will be available to the public as part of the EIS.

Invitation to comment

An online survey has been created to capture your feedback on two important issues for the project:

- Your feedback on the proposed extension to work hours during construction.
- How you would like to be consulted / kept informed about the project.

To provide your feedback please complete the online survey at www.rms.nsw.gov.au, contact the project team on 1800 778 900 (free call) or email w2balliance@globalskm.com.

Online community noticeboard

RMS has launched an online community noticeboard that provides a facility for interested community members to share information quickly and easily.

Relevant stakeholder notices such as upcoming community information sessions for projects will be regularly uploaded as well as monthly report cards and council initiatives.

Did we miss you?

Did you receive a copy of this project update directly? If not, we want to hear from you!

If you, a friend, neighbour or relative did not receive this flyer via addressed mail and would like to be added to the project distribution list, please contact the project team on 1800 778 900 (free call) or email w2balliance@globalskm.com.

For more information:

Alliance Communication Manager

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T Project information line **1800 778 900** (toll free)

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More information is available at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/pacific
