



Transport  
Roads & Maritime  
Services

# Project overview: Woolgoolga to Ballina

Pacific Highway upgrade

AUGUST 2014



**TWEED HEADS**

MURWILLUMBAH

BYRON BAY

LISMORE

BALLINA

WOODBURN

MACLEAN

GRAFTON

WOOLGOOLGA

COFFS HARBOUR

URUNGA

NAMBUCCA HEADS

MACKSVILLE

KEMPSEY

PORT MACQUARIE

TAREE

TUNCURRY

FORSTER

BULAHDELAH

KARUAH

RAYMOND TERRACE

HEXHAM

NEWCASTLE

M1

**Tintenbar to Ewingsdale**  
Started construction September 2012

**Pimlico to Teven**  
Stage 2 started construction November 2013

**Woolgoolga to Ballina**  
NSW Planning approval granted July 2014  
Being considered by Australian Government

**Nambucca Heads to Urunga**  
Started construction November 2013

**Warrell Creek to Nambucca Heads**  
Contract awarded July 2014

**Frederickton to Eungai**  
Started construction August 2013

**Kundabung to Kempsey**  
Contract awarded April 2014

**Oxley Highway to Kundabung**  
Contract awarded March 2014



**LEGEND**

- █ Upgrade completed to dual carriageway
- █ Upgrade approved and/or route being prepared for construction
- █ Under construction

# Pacific Highway upgrade

The Pacific Highway corridor connects Sydney and Brisbane, and is a major contributor to Australia's economic activity.

The road is a vital piece of the nation's infrastructure and is a key link in the National Land Transport Network.

There is now a multi-lane, divided highway link between Melbourne and Sydney and from Sydney through to Port Macquarie on the NSW North Coast.

The Australian and NSW governments have a shared commitment to completing the Pacific Highway duplication by 2020.

This means we are closing in on the final section of a high standard road link for the full length of the Melbourne-Sydney-Brisbane transport corridor.

An upgraded Pacific Highway must meet the needs of the travelling public and enable transport efficiencies, while also ensuring ecological sustainability and connecting the growing coastal communities along the highway.

The Australian and NSW governments have been jointly upgrading the Pacific Highway since 1996.

The Pacific Highway upgrade program is being completed in three phases:

- Between Hexham and Port Macquarie, around the growing suburbs of Coffs Harbour and between Ballina and the Queensland border, targeted for completion in 2015
- Between Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour – five major projects spanning 105 kilometres will all be in major work by the end of 2014 and will progressively open to traffic in 2016 and 2017
- Between Woolgoolga and Ballina – major upgrades have been completed at Glenugie, Halfway Creek and Devils Pulpit, with planning and preconstruction activities preparing the remaining lengths for major work starting in early 2015.

Overall program objectives are to:

- Significantly reduce road crashes and injuries
- Reduce travel times
- Improve freight and transport efficiencies
- Engage the community and consider its interests
- Provide a safe worksite for workers and road users
- Support economic development
- Ensure ecologically sustainable development
- Create public value.

Currently, nearly 400 kilometres or 60 percent of the highway has been upgraded to a four-lane divided road and a further 64 kilometres is being built.



# Woolgoolga to Ballina project

The Woolgoolga to Ballina project is Australia's largest regional infrastructure project and will duplicate about 155 kilometres to four-lane divided road.

The project starts about six kilometres north of Woolgoolga (north of Coffs Harbour) and ends about six kilometres south of Ballina (see map).

The proposed upgrade does not include the completed Devils Pulpit and Glenugie upgrade projects.

The project upgrade has been approved by NSW Planning and is currently being considered by the Federal Department of Environment.

When complete, the 155 kilometre Woolgoolga and Ballina project will:

- Reduce overall length from 180 kilometres to 167 kilometres, saving about 13 kilometres in travel distance
- Allow for a higher posted speed limit of up to 110 km/h
- Reduce travel time from 130 minutes to about 105 minutes, saving 25 minutes
- Reduce crash rates by an expected 27 per cent due to divided carriageways
- Improve travel reliability through better flood immunity, fewer incidents and more readily available alternative routes

Key features of the upgrade include:

- Duplication of 155 kilometres of the Pacific Highway to a motorway standard (Class M) or arterial road (Class A), with two lanes in each direction and room to add a third lane if required in the future
- Split-level (grade-separated) interchanges at Range Road, Glenugie, Tyndale, Maclean, Yamba / Harwood, Woombah (Iluka Road), Woodburn, Broadwater and Wardell
- Bypasses of South Grafton, Ulmarra, Woodburn, Broadwater and Wardell
- About 40 bridges over rivers, creeks and floodplains, including major bridges crossing the Clarence and Richmond rivers
- Bridges over and under the highway to maintain access to local roads that cross the highway
- Access roads to maintain connections to existing local roads and properties
- Structures designed to encourage animals over and under the upgraded highway where it crosses key animal habitat or wildlife corridors
- Rest areas located at about 50 kilometre intervals at Pine Brush (Tyndale), north of Mororo Road and north of the Richmond River
- A heavy vehicle checking station near Halfway Creek and north of the Richmond River.

## Key statistics

- Building 155km of four-lane divided road
- Bypasses of South Grafton, Ulmarra, Woodburn, Broadwater and Wardell
- Open to traffic by 2020
- 13km travel distance saving
- 25 minute travel time saving
- More than 75km to be built under traffic
- 10 split-level interchanges
- 40 bridges
- 14.2 million m<sup>3</sup> earthwork
- Peak of 2500 direct and 6500 indirect jobs
- Single Environmental Impact Statement for whole 155km project
- Direct impact on 37 threatened species (67 within 10km)
- About 130 wildlife crossings
- 932ha of vegetation clearing
- Biodiversity offset strategy
- NSW Planning approval June 2014
- Pre-approved extended working hours



For more information contact 1800 778 900,  
email [W2B@rms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:W2B@rms.nsw.gov.au) or visit the project website [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/W2B](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/W2B)

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