Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

NSW GOVERNMENT

October 2017

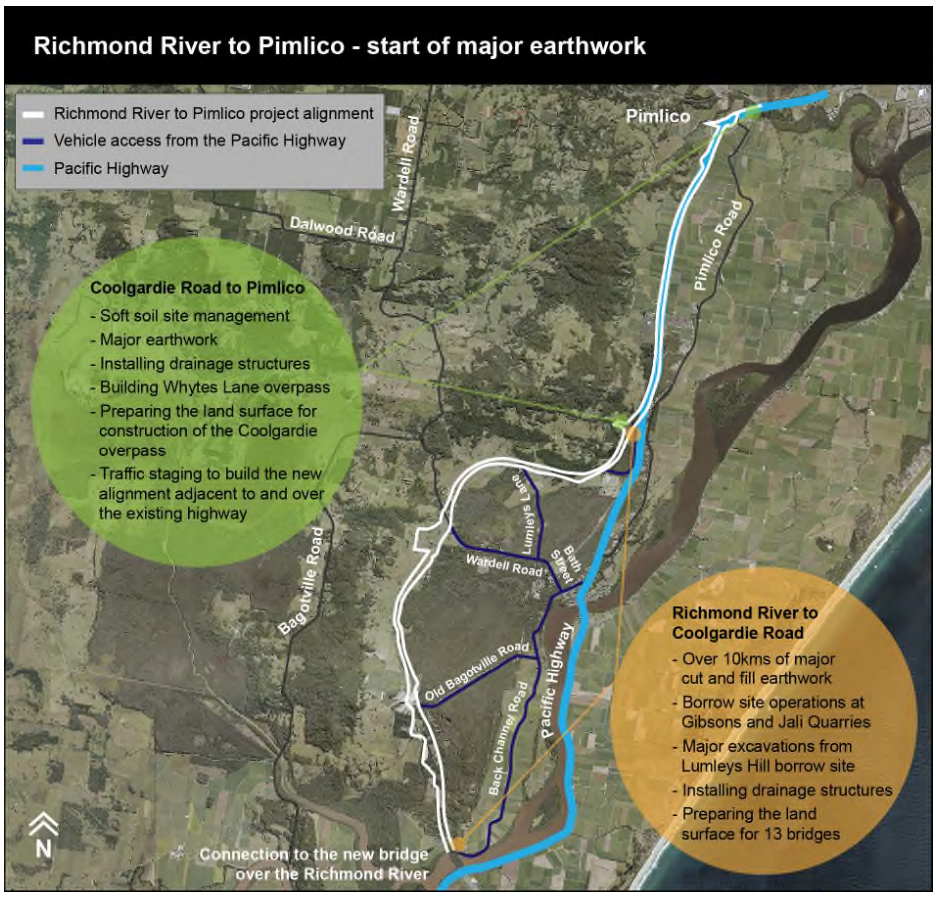
Start of major earthwork between the Richmond River and Pimlico for the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade

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.

Work is progressing well with setting up project compounds and storage areas, installing environmental controls and removing vegetation for the upgrade between the Richmond River and Pimlico.

From early October, weather permitting, major earthwork activity will start. This will involve reshaping the natural surface of the land within the project alignment to form where the new road will be built.

There are two main work locations for carrying out earthwork - from the Richmond River to Coolgardie Road and just north of Coolgardie Road to Pimlico. We have provided a map to show the types of earthwork activity in each location.



What is major earthwork?

Major earthwork is a process using machinery and equipment to reshape the natural surface of the land by the removal (cut), moving or adding (fill) of large quantities of soil or rock from a particular area to another. Earthwork can also involve the formation of water basins, drains, bridge abutments and other landscaped features.

Earthwork activity between the Richmond River and Pimlico will involve major cut and fill operations.

What is cut and fill?

A cut is an area where material is being removed to lower the natural surface. The material is broken up before being loaded and removed from this site. This can be done using excavators, scrapers, bulldozers and drilling and blasting.

A fill is an area where material is placed to raise the natural surface. Material is placed, spread and compacted in layers. This is done using equipment including scrapers and trucks to place the material, dozers and graders to spread the material and rollers to compact the material.

As part of the earthwork to build the new highway, more than 300,000 cubic metres of material will be taken from Gibsons and Jali quarries and more than 700,000 cubic metres of material will be excavated from Lumleys Hill to be used as fill.

Grader

Scraper

How will dust and noise be managed?

During this work, impacts including noise, dust and vibration will occur. The project team will use proven environmental management and mitigation methods to minimise these impacts during our work. Some of the measures we use to minimise dust and noise include:

- Spraying water for dust suppression
- Applying dust binding agents to cover stock piles and mounds during construction
- Monitoring air quality and noise
- Positioning noise generating plant and equipment away from residential properties, where practicable
- Minimising the number of plant and equipment operating at the same time.

How will work affect you?

During work, nearby residents and road users can expect:

- Increased noise levels due to the use of heavy machinery and equipment
- Some dust due to the nature of earthwork
- Low levels of vibration during the use of construction equipment and machinery
- Increased traffic on local roads including construction vehicles, heavy machinery and haulage trucks
- Flashing lights and reversing alarms from machinery and vehicles for the safety of workers
- Temporary lighting towers at compound sites
- Temporary changes to road conditions including reduced speed limits, short term stoppages and traffic management along roads.

All work will be carried out in line with the project's Conditions of Approval and Construction Environment Management Plan.

We will continue to work closely with our neighbours while we plan and carry out this work.

Koala management measures

As part of the project's Conditions of Approval, and in line with our management plan we will implement measures outlined in the Koala Management Plan, including:

- Installing temporary and permanent fencing around and grids at site entrances
- Introducing temporary reduced speed limits on local roads
- Inducting and training workers in koala awareness and management.

Next steps

Some of the key work the project team will carry out in coming months includes:

- Continuing removing vegetation and installing erosion and sediment controls
- Starting quarry operations including excavation, drilling and blasting and hauling materials
- Implementing local road traffic changes.

We will keep you informed of our progress and notify you in advance of new activities starting.

Work hours

Typically work will be carried out during the project's approved construction hours, which are:

7am – 6pm Monday – Friday
8am – 5pm Saturdays

In areas where residents live more than 200m 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 contact the Woolgoolga to Ballina project toll free line on 1800 778 900 dial 1, W2B@pacificcomplete.com.au or visit the project website rms.nsw.gov.au/W2B.

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

131 450

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.