



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Transport for NSW

Coffs Harbour bypass

Project update | Planning approval | December 2020



Aerial view of Coffs Harbour

The Australian and NSW governments are funding the 14 kilometre Coffs Harbour bypass project. The bypass will boost the regional economy and improve connectivity, road transport efficiency and safety for local and interstate motorists.

Once complete, the bypass will remove thousands of vehicles from the centre of town, making Coffs Harbour an even better place to live, work and visit.

Planning approval

The Coffs Harbour bypass project received planning approval from the NSW Minister of Planning and Public Spaces on 9 November 2020. The Federal Minister for the Environment subsequently approved the project in December 2020. With planning approval received and Conditions of Approval (CoA) met, early work for the Coffs Harbour bypass project will start soon.

Conditions of Approval

The CoA are required to prevent, minimise and/or offset adverse environmental and community impacts. The CoA for the Coffs Harbour bypass have focused heavily on noise mitigation, minimising impacts to threatened species (particularly koalas) and stronger requirements for protection of Aboriginal heritage. Other CoA focus on mitigation of impacts from existing soil contamination and biosecurity issues, as well as reducing the impacts of construction traffic, and potential water quality impacts.

The CoA ensure TfNSW and contractors meet performance measures and reduce impacts to the environment and the community.



Water monitoring provides baseline information on water quality prior to construction

Early work activities

Early work for the Coffs Harbour bypass involves minor work along various locations of the project.

Early work will include:

- Boundary establishment, including fencing
- Surveying
- Geotechnical investigations
- Services and public utilities adjustments including:
 - Water main relocations
 - Electrical relocations
 - Telecommunications
- Consultation with property owners identified in the Amendment Report about at-house noise treatment
- Establishment of minor ancillary sites and laydown areas identified in the EIS and Amendment Report
- Demolition of some buildings acquired by Transport for NSW along the alignment
- Construction of the new Solitary RFS brigade shed and relocation of brigade to the new facility
- Archaeological salvage in collaboration with the Aboriginal stakeholders
- Monitoring of ground and surface water
- Relocation of threatened flora



Work to move power lines is planned to start soon

Geotechnical investigations

To gather information for detailed design we will continue geotechnical investigations. Geotechnical investigations are key for successful detailed design, particularly around the high risk areas. Understanding geotechnical conditions enables thorough design of piling and foundations for bridges and supports for tunnels.

Utility relocations

We will start with electrical and water utility relocations before moving onto relocating telecommunications services.

There will be some impacts including electrical outages, water supply interruptions and temporary interruptions to phone and internet lines. Any businesses or residents in close proximity to the relocation works will receive notifications of any interruptions in advance of the work starting.

At-house noise treatment

At-house noise treatment (AHNT) is designed to mitigate road traffic noise, it is not designed to mitigate construction noise.

As AHNT are starting now, some residents will receive benefits of the treatment before and during construction. The intention is to approach occupiers of entitled residences prior to, or during, the early phases of major construction so implementation of the work is achieved earlier.

Properties who have qualified for noise treatment were identified in the Updated Noise and Vibration Assessment (Volume 2B, Appendix B) of the project's Amendment Report, which was released in June 2020 and is available at the project's website.

AHNT will be offered depending on such things as the property's locality to the project, expected construction schedule/staging, expected construction noise impacts and level of disturbance.

Installation of AHNT to 619 properties will take a considerable time to complete. However, TfNSW will endeavour to install treatments as soon as possible prior to, and during the early phases of, major construction.

Eligible property owners will be contacted by phone, letter or doorknock by a TfNSW representative to discuss installation.

TfNSW will be validating the noise predictions once the bypass is open to traffic. We will continue to work with our stakeholders to ensure we have the right treatment in place.

Minor ancillary sites and laydown areas

Four temporary ancillary sites will be required to support the project's early work. They will be located on Englands Road, North Boambee Valley Road, Spagnolos Road and Bruxner Park Road.

The sites will be used for:

- Office accommodation (such as relocatable sheds)
- Staff amenities (such as lunchrooms and toilets)
- Light vehicle and plant parking
- Material, equipment and chemical storage

The sites will operate during normal construction hours, which are **7am to 6pm Monday to Friday** and **8am to 1pm on Saturdays**. Nearby residents will be notified about this work closer to the start date.

Archaeological salvage

A series of Aboriginal cultural and heritage investigations have already occurred as part of the Coffs Harbour bypass planning approval process.

The Aboriginal stakeholders have been heavily involved in the planning of the project and have requested that

the local Aboriginal community undertake cultural salvage along the construction footprint in areas identified by the community as culturally meaningful. The cultural salvage will be carried out by the Aboriginal community, with resources and advice provided by TfNSW where required.

Relocating the Solitary RFS brigade shed

We've been working with the Rural Fire Service and Coffs Harbour City Council to replace the Solitary RFS brigade shed to a new location near the Korora Hill interchange. Building the facility early in the project will ensure an uninterrupted fire service for the community as the existing building is required to be demolished to make way for the project. C-Build North Coast has been engaged to complete this work.

Water monitoring

Over the last 12 months local environmental consultant Geolink has been monitoring water quality in selected creeks that intersect the bypass route. The data is being gathered to provide baseline information on water quality prior to construction. The data collected also looks at how stormwater is released from the project site and to identify any potential issues during construction and operation. If any issues are found as a result of construction activities, then the project can implement management issues.

The overall objective is to ensure the build and operation of the bypass does not negatively impact on sensitive water receiving areas such as the Solitary Islands Marine Park, protected wetlands, threatened species habitat and endangered ecological communities.

Relocation of threatened flora and fauna

The Coffs Harbour bypass project will be starting various aspects of the biodiversity management measures. This includes work to develop a rusty plum salvage and re-establishment plan, a micro-bat management plan, a nest box management plan and update the threatened species management plan. North Coast firm Sandpiper Ecological Surveys has been engaged to perform this work.

Major construction

Discussions with the construction industry were recently held as part of the Market Interaction Process. The process was effective in gaining valuable insight into the views of industry that will assist in determining the best delivery approach for the project. We will now use this feedback as a consideration in selecting the most suitable procurement method to deliver the major construction phase of the project. We will provide more details about the tender process in the new year.

Contact us

Please contact the project team if you have any questions or would like more information:



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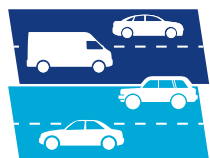
What happens next?



Improving safety



Improving traffic flow



Easing congestion



Bypass up to 12 sets of traffic lights



Motorists will save about 11 minutes in travel time



December 2020

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