

COFFS HARBOUR BYPASS (CSSI-7666)  
**ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE MONTHLY REPORT**  
February 2024

*Reporting Period: 1 to 29 February 2024*

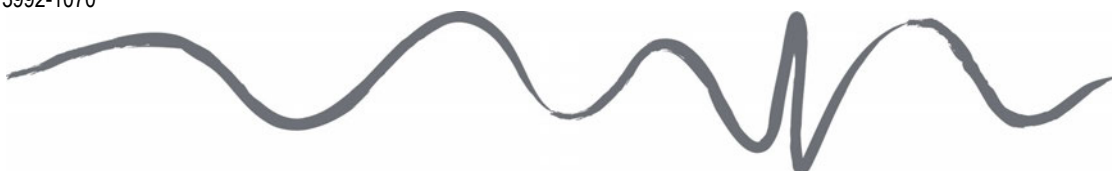
This Environmental Representative Monthly Report has been prepared in accordance with the Minister's Condition of Approval (MCoA) A25(j) for the Coffs Harbour Bypass (CSSI-7666) and is consistent with the Environmental Representative Protocol (October 2018).

**PROJECT SUMMARY:** The construction and operation of a new multi lane road from north of Sawtell Road Interchange to Sapphire Beach, and including:

- a new four-lane divided highway with three grade-separated interchanges at England's Road (southern), Coramba Road (central) and Korora hill (northern);
- three tunnels through ridges, at Roberts hill (approximately 190m long), Shephards lane (approximately 360m long) and Gatelys road (approximately 450m long);
- structures to pass over local roads and creeks, and a bridge over the north coast railway;
- tie-in and modifications to the existing road network, to enable local road connections;
- pedestrian and cycling facilities, a shared path tying into the existing shared path on solitary islands way, and a new pedestrian bridge to replace the existing Luke Bowen footbridge;
- a new Korora public school bus interchange and a formalised bus stop at Coramba Road; and
- noise attenuation measures, fauna connectivity structures, and ancillary work.

**Works underway:**

- Main construction works:
  - ongoing installation and maintenance of site controls, including fencing, signs, access gates, erosion and sediment controls (incl. sediment basins) and vehicle washdown bays;
  - construction of temporary drainage channels and waterway diversions;
  - installation of permanent drainage;
  - earthworks, including cut-to-fill excavation & haulage, rock hammering, blasting, crushing, screening;
  - bridge construction; and
  - tunnel construction, including rock hammering and drill & blast.
- Low impact works (i.e., non-construction works) are ongoing, including:
  - electrical utility relocations by Gosling Electrical; and
  - residential property noise treatment works.
- Other ongoing works include:
  - design refinement and detailed design;
  - threatened flora species management, including propagation and translocation; and
  - operational noise review.



## **February 2024 Works Summary**

### ***Main Construction***

- Installation and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls, including sediment basins.
- Installation and maintenance of access gates, including vehicle washbays for Panama disease control.
- Construction of temporary drainage channels and waterway diversions.
- Bulk earthworks, including cut-to-fill excavation & haulage, rock hammering, blasting, crushing, screening.
- Installation of permanent drainage (e.g. cross-drainage pipes and culverts).
- Bridge construction, including establishment of piling pads, bored piling, and pier & headstock construction.
- Concrete batch plant operation.
- Tunnel construction at the Gatelys Road tunnel north portal, including rock hammering and drill & blast.
- Tunnel portal preparation works at the other tunnel portals.

### ***Utility Relocations***

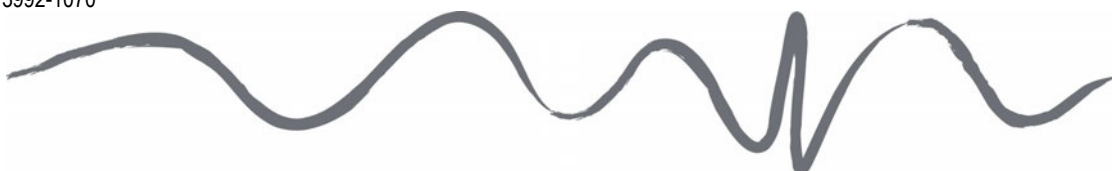
Work on the utility relocations continued in the following locations:

- Bray Street.
- Mackays Road.
- Cnr Charlesworth Bay Road and Pacific Highway.

Most of the utility relocation works are complete and most of the previously active work areas are in the process of being rehabilitated, revegetated (where appropriate) and stabilised.

### ***Residential Property Noise Treatment Works***

- 619 receivers were identified in the EIS Amendment Report as being potentially eligible for noise treatment works. Ground truthing has found that 14 properties are in an ineligible subdivision, 153 are unbuilt residential properties (located in an eligible subdivision), and 53 buildings do not require treatment (e.g., non-habitable). Furthermore, 32 additional properties have been identified for treatment and 51 properties have declined/postponed the treatment offer. Therefore, there are 380 properties to be treated.
- Builders contracts have been awarded for 344 properties and these properties have been treated.
- There are 30 properties where treatment cannot be provided without impacting asbestos. To ensure the safety of the residents and contractors during the removal of asbestos, TfNSW has engaged specialist contractors to review the condition of the properties, the scope of work for noise treatments and the proposed work methods. The initial inspections have been completed and the specialist contractors are preparing their reports for TfNSW to review.
- There are 4 properties with electrical supply issues that require further investigation. Electrical supply for two of these properties has been resolved. TfNSW is working in consultation with the homeowner and Essential Energy to resolve the remaining two properties.
- There are 2 schools and 1 place of worship that require additional investigation and noise modelling to be finalised based on the Operational Noise Review (ONR). Site investigations are planned for mid April 2024 to undertake attended noise monitoring to measure the existing transmission loss performance of the building facades.



### ***Operational Noise Review***

- An Operational Noise Review (ONR) report is in the process of being prepared, as required by MCoA E50.
- A draft of the ONR was provided to the ER & AA in December 2023. Initial ER & AA comments on the draft ONR were provided to FGJV in mid January 2024. TfNSW has also provided comments on the draft ONR.
- FGJV and the noise consultant are in the process of reviewing comments and updating the ONR.

### ***Threatened Species Management***

- New plant species (Fontainea, Pittosporum) management was ongoing, including propagation of plants in nurseries for future planting in translocation sites.
- An updated version of the Threatened Species Management Plan is in the process of being finalised, prior to submission to DPE for information.

### **March 2024 Upcoming Works**

#### ***Main Construction***

- Installation and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls, including sediment basins.
- Installation and maintenance of access gates, including vehicle washbays for Panama disease control.
- Construction of temporary drainage channels and waterway diversions.
- Bulk earthworks, including cut-to-fill excavation & haulage, rock hammering, blasting, crushing, screening.
- Installation of permanent drainage (e.g. cross-drainage pipes and culverts).
- Bridge construction, including establishment of piling pads, bored piling, and pier & headstock construction.
- Concrete batch plant operation.
- Tunnel construction at the Gatelys Road tunnel north portal, including rock hammering and drill & blast.
- Tunnel portal preparation works at the other tunnel portals.

#### ***Utility Relocations***

Installation of new electrical infrastructure will continue along Bray Street / Mackays Road, as well as DP18 electrical works (adjacent to Pacific Bay Resort and Banana Coast Caravan Park) involving tying conduits into the existing power conduits, running and connecting cables and installing new pillars for a private feed to Pacific Bay Resort.

Most of the utility relocation works are complete and most of the previously active work areas are in the process of being rehabilitated, revegetated (where appropriate) and stabilised.

#### ***Residential Property Noise Treatment Works***

- Reports on the properties with asbestos constraints will continue to be prepared by the specialist contractors.



### ***Operational Noise Review***

- An Operational Noise Review (ONR) report is in the process of being prepared, as required by MCoA E50.
- FGJV and the noise consultant are in the process of reviewing comments provided on a draft version and updating the ONR.

### ***Threatened Species Management***

- New plant species (Fontainea, Pittosporum) management will continue, including propagation of plants in nurseries for future planting in translocation sites.
- An updated version of the Threatened Species Management Plan is in the process of being finalised, prior to submission to DPE for information.

### **ER Activity**

#### ***Reviews / Approvals / Advice***

- OOHW Application (TfNSW/Gosling) – Pacific Highway, adjacent to Bananacoast Caravan Park – Removal of a redundant power line that crosses the Pacific Highway: Review and approve.
- OOHW approval process – EPA has issued an EPL variation with a new condition L6.9, which allows concrete pours related to piling to continue into the out-of-hours period due to unforeseen circumstances. The ER has been involved in discussions and meetings to confirm the intent and applicability of this condition and the process for implementation.
- 24 hour tunnelling – The ER has been involved in discussions and meetings with FGJV, TfNSW, DPPI and EPA regarding the intent and applicability of MCoAs E33 to E35. It is noted that current tunnelling works are being undertaken during standard construction hours, or in accordance with other MCoAs as appropriate.
- Air Quality Monitoring Program – Minor update: Review and approve Revision G.
- Monthly Acoustic Advisor (AA) Report (January): Review.
- Weekly community complaints register: Review.

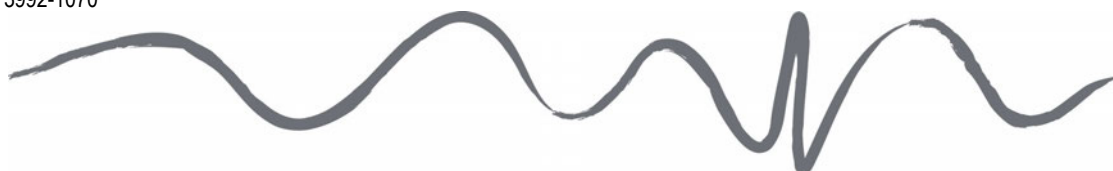
#### ***Site Inspections***

Site inspections occurred on:

- 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 with the AA and TfNSW, DPPI and EPA representatives
- 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 with TfNSW and EPA representatives

#### ***Meetings / Workshops***

- A Monthly Project Update Meeting was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024, with the AA and DPPI, TfNSW, EPA and FGJV representatives. Some participants attended the meeting in person, while others connected via video call.
- Weekly meetings with the AA, DPPI and environment and community representatives from TfNSW and FGJV are ongoing.



### **Reports**

- MCoA A25(j): Environmental Representative Monthly Report (January 2024) – Prepared and submitted to DPHI (Infrastructure Management & Compliance) via Major Projects Portal on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

### **Environmental Performance**

#### **Stop Work Notices**

There were no Stop Work Notices.

#### **Incidents (as per MCoA definition)**

There were no incidents.

#### **Non-compliances**

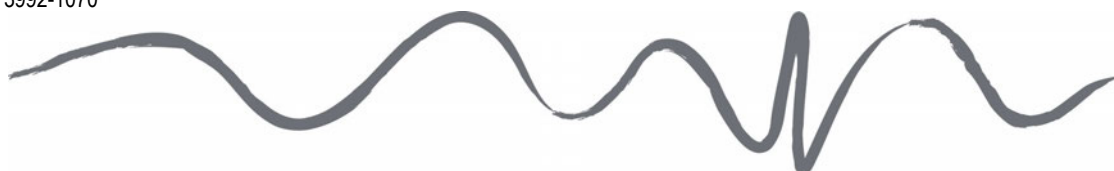
There were no non-compliances.

#### **Environmental Events (i.e., not classified as Incidents)**

- On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024, inadequate erosion and sediment controls were observed at Fill 16 (Chainage 20800) during an environmental site inspection. During drainage installation works the previous day, the temporary lining along a clean water drain was removed to enable a section of permanent pipe installation. The temporary lining should have been reinstated along exposed sections of the clean water drain at the end of the day, but this was not done. Approximately 20 mm of rainfall was received that night, with the issue identified the following morning. Repairs were completed soon after identification, with geofabric lining of the clean water drain reinstated.
- On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024, the piling sub-contractor identified that polymer had leaked out of a pile excavation at Bridge 4 at North Boambee Rd. The issue was identified simply due to a drop in the level of the polymer fluid within the pile. The works team immediately backfilled the pile excavation with stabilised sand and extracted the remaining polymer. Project personnel completed inspections of the surrounding piling pad and nearby waterways at 5:00pm and 6:40pm on the day of the incident and at 7:00am the following day. There was no visual detection of polymer within the waterways or surrounding work areas. It is estimated that approximately 2,000 L of polymer was lost from the pile. Excavation undertaken in the adjacent pile on the following day caused polymer to flow from the surrounding fill into the adjacent pile, resulting in a portion of the lost 2,000 L being recovered. Following review of geotechnical information and subsequent investigations, it is considered likely the polymer has been retained within rock and void space directly adjacent to the pile excavation. Continuation of piling with polymer in this location has been paused until a technical solution that minimises the likelihood of uncontrolled release of polymer into the environment has been developed.
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024, a septic tank at the Site 1G main compound overflowed into the surrounding bunded excavation. The septic tank was immediately pumped out and the frequency of future pump outs was increased. FGJV is investigating the installation of an alarm system that would activate at 80-85% capacity.

#### **Positive Observations / Lessons Learnt / Opportunities for Improvement**

None for this month.



## **Changes to the Project**

### **Documentation**

- The following document incorporates minor updates that have been approved by the ER:
  - Air Quality Monitoring Program (Revision G, 02/01/2024)

## **Community Consultation and Complaints**

### **FGJV Consultation Summary**

- 5 community information van sessions in February, attended by 84 people.
- 12 meetings with stakeholders, including two with emergency services, the Banana Growers Association, NSW Police, City of Coffs Harbour, and Korora Public School.
- Weekly updates were distributed on Fridays in February, advising the community about upcoming traffic changes, controlled blasting, and community information van locations.
- Blasting notifications for residents near Gatelys Road Tunnel, Cut 15a, Cut 14, and Cut 4.

### **FGJV Notifications and Fact Sheets**

- North: Notification for construction work on the Pacific Highway at Korora
- North: Notification for out of hours work on the Pacific Highway at Korora
- North: Letter for new location of school bus stop at Campbell Close and the Pacific Highway
- North: Letter for out of hours concrete pours for the new Pine Brush Creek bridges, Korora
- South: Letter for out of hours concrete pour between Englands Road and Buchanans Road
- South: Letter for temporary traffic changes at Buchanans Road

The team also prepared the March project update which will be distributed in March.

### **TfNSW Notifications**

- As part of the final utility relocation works, Goslings Electrical continued installing electrical infrastructure in the road corridor along Bray Street and Mackays Road using horizontal directional drilling. The notification was hand delivered and door knocked to each house in the area that would be affected.

### **Complaints and Enquiries**

There were 7 complaints and 19 enquiries, with the trending topics being noise (operational and construction) and traffic.



**Closing Remarks**

Construction progress was significantly impacted by rainfall during the month. There were numerous days with rainfall in the 10 mm to 30 mm range, and typically only a few dry days between rainfall events. As with the previous month, substantial time and resources have been focussed on repairs and maintenance of ErSed controls, including the treatment and discharge of runoff captured in sediment basins. In between the rain events, there were some periods of dry and windy weather, with water carts being used for dust suppression in areas with active earthworks.

The team is in a routine of typically undertaking 2 to 5 controlled blasts per week spread across several locations, and these blasts are considered to be well planned and managed. In addition, trial blasts are currently being undertaken at the Gatelys Road tunnel northern portal. Tunnel construction has commenced at this tunnel portal, with a combination of rock hammering and drill & blast.

An issue was identified with incomplete close-out of actions identified during environmental inspections. In response, a more coordinated and consistent approach has been implemented for these inspections.

Overall, environmental management of the project continues to be satisfactory, with most of the issues identified during site inspections being considered low risk.

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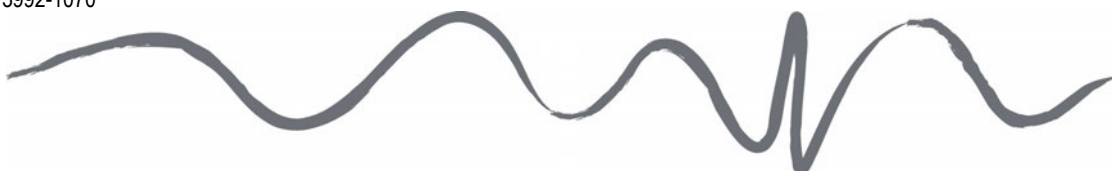
CHB Environmental Representative  
**GeoLINK**

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

CHB Environmental Representative  
**GeoLINK**

Attachment: Photos from Site Inspections – February 2024





Photos from Site Inspections – February 2024



**Image 1: Englands Rd, Fill 2A (Ch10800) – Looking south across Englands Rd, with soil binder application underway**



**Image 2: Englands Rd, Fill 2B (Ch10900) – Looking north with Isles Dr on right, future interchange roundabout in top left**



**Image 3: Shephards Ln tunnel north portal (Ch17300) – Earthworks at tunnel portal following geotech works**



**Image 4: Gatelys Rd tunnel south portal & Fill 14 (Ch18800) – Ongoing earthworks & preparation of tunnel portal**





**Image 5: Gatelys Rd tunnel north portal (Ch19300) – Initial tunnelling works, including rock hammering and drill & blast**



**Image 6: West Korora Rd, Bridge 16 (Ch19600) – Install of piling pad in preparation for bridge construction**



**Image 7: Korora Hill Interchange, Bridge 19 (Ch20900) – Looking north across bridge piers towards Fill 17**



**Image 8: Korora Hill, Fill 18 (Ch21700) – Fill batter that has been hydromulched and sediment basin repairs after rain**

