

Project update | March 2024

Coffs Harbour bypass



Construction continues at Gatelays Road Tunnel northern portal

The Australian and NSW Governments are funding the \$2.2 billion, 14-kilometre Coffs Harbour bypass project. The bypass will boost the regional economy and improve connectivity, road transport efficiency and safety for all motorists.

Construction is progressing well on the Coffs Harbour bypass. Our bridges and interchanges are taking shape and we have started work on our first tunnel. See the full story on page two.

In our recent community engagement survey, we received requests for more updates and photographs of construction progress. In response to this feedback, we have launched a quarterly report card and have a quarterly photo book coming soon.

Did you know we send out a weekly email update every Friday covering traffic changes, the timing and location of controlled blasting, and opportunities to connect with the project team? **Scan the QR code** if you would like to subscribe to these updates.



Light at the start of the tunnels

Portal excavation is progressing well at the Gatelys Road Tunnel, the longest tunnel being built for the Coffs Harbour bypass.

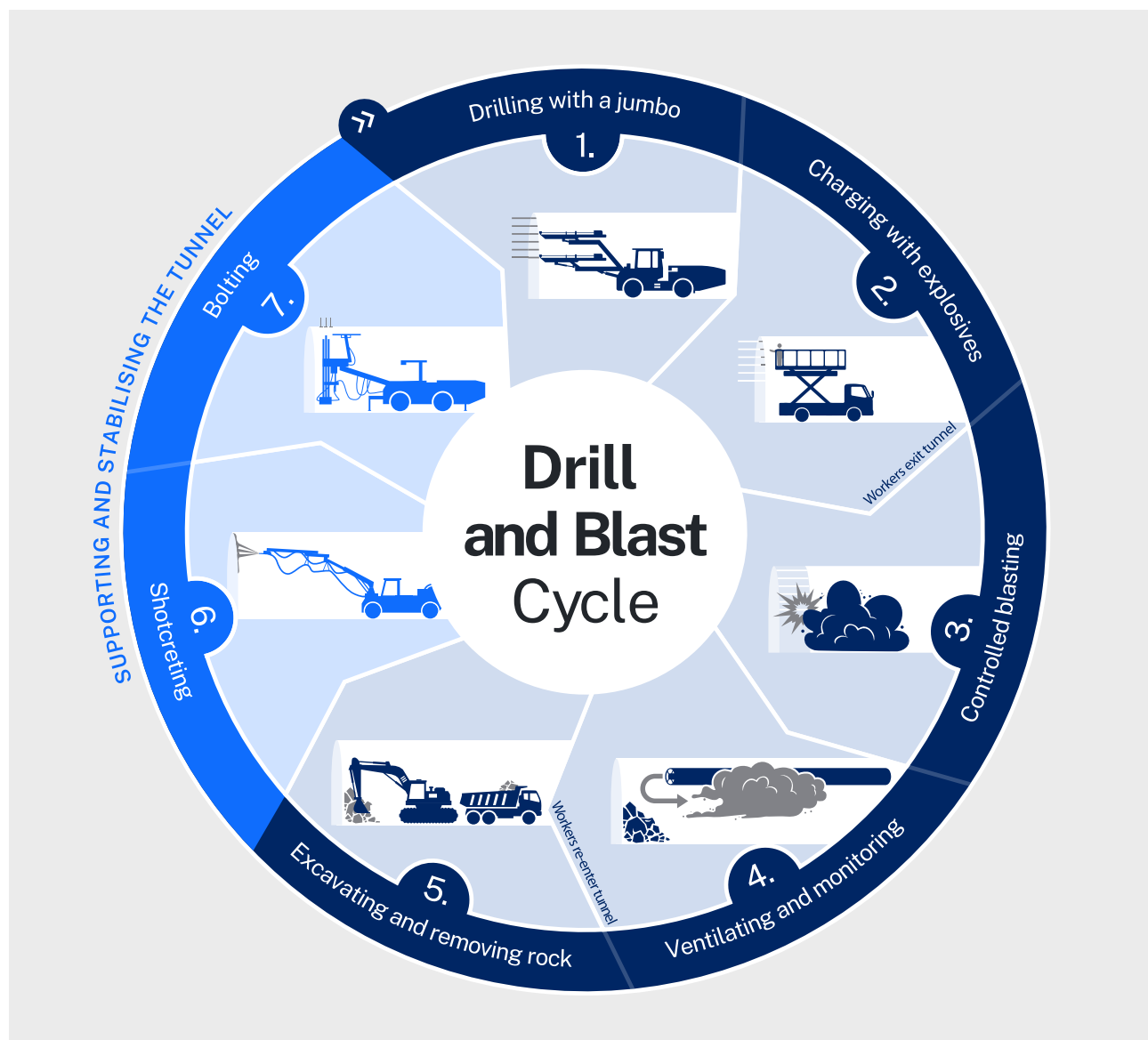
The project team has recently started controlled blasting at the northern end of the tunnel. Generally, there will be two controlled blasts per day and we expect to excavate up to four metres. This cycle is shown in the graphic below.

For each tunnel there will be two tubes, one each for the north and southbound carriageways. The project team is excavating the tunnel tubes in stages. First, we excavate the top of the tunnel tube, called the heading. Then we come through again to excavate the base of the tunnel tube, known as the bench.

For our tunnels, we will generally start at one end and move through to the other end, excavating both tubes at the same time. Once we have completed the earthwork and excavation, we will install drainage, build the pavement, and complete the fit out of mechanical, electrical, fire, safety, and intelligent transport systems. All systems are tested and commissioned before the tunnels are opened to traffic.

We are not using tunnel boring machines (TBMs) on the Coffs Harbour bypass because our tunnels are short and travel through hard argillite rock. TBMs are more effective for longer tunnels and softer rock.

While we have been excavating the Gatelys Road Tunnel, we have also been busy preparing the Shephards Lane and Roberts Hill tunnel portals which are taking shape. We look forward to keeping the community updated on our tunnelling progress.



Our tunnel lengths

Gatelys Road: about 410m per tube

Shephards Lane: about 320m per tube

Roberts Hill: about 160m per tube

Under the Minister's Conditions of Approval (MCoA), tunnel construction work can be carried out 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Controlled blasting in tunnels will only occur from Monday to Friday between 7am and 6pm and on Saturdays between 9am and 1pm.

For more information about tunnelling and controlled blasting, read our fact sheets at pacifichighway.nsw.gov.au/coffsharbourbypass



Artist impression of the Gatelys Road Tunnel northern portal

Draft Place Design and Landscape Plan

The consultation report for the draft Place Design and Landscape Plan will be released shortly. The report summarises the feedback received during the consultation period and provides a response from Transport for NSW. The Place Design and Landscape Plan will be finalised and submitted to the Department of Planning before being released publically in coming months.

Read our fact sheets

Are you interested in learning more about how we are building the Coffs Harbour bypass?

We have prepared fact sheets to provide more information about our construction activities, including how we adhere to our regulatory requirements, what impacts can be expected, and how we are mitigating them.

The following fact sheets are available online:

- Vegetation removal
- New plant species
- Bulk earthwork
- Dust and air quality management
- Noise and vibration
- Water management
- Safety in construction
- Traffic safety
- Controlled blasting
- Tunnelling
- Concrete batch plant
- Bored piling for bridges
- Bridge building
- Good neighbour.

Earthwork machinery in action north of North Boambee Road



Managing your journeys

For the safety of motorists and our workers, traffic conditions will continue to change while we build the bypass. We stage our work to keep traffic flowing as efficiently as possible, but some impacts are unavoidable, including:

- Equipment and materials deliveries
- Long term road work speed limits
- Temporary and permanent road closures
- Changes to local road access
- Pedestrian and cyclist detours
- Minor and major traffic switches.

Road work speed limits and restrictions to turning movements are enforceable and remain in place even when you can't see construction. This is because there are increased traffic volumes and other changes in the road environment, including reduced shoulder widths, removal of acceleration and deceleration lanes or holding bays, and heavy vehicles moving across roads.

This is why we are asking road users to **ACT** when driving on roads near the bypass construction areas.

Be **Aware** – Subscribe to our weekly updates, view the project website, follow Transport for NSW on Facebook and access Live Traffic to learn about road changes.

Be **Cautious** – Obey signage, drive to the conditions, and follow the direction of traffic control. The road environment may change often.

Allow more **Time** – Travel times are likely to be longer because of changes to speed limits and turning restrictions. Please plan for minor delays and be patient on the roads.

We understand that traffic changes are disruptive for road users and appreciate your patience while we continue to build the Coffs Harbour bypass.

Super Ts are coming to town

In the coming months, the project team will begin transporting precast concrete super T girders to bridge sites along the alignment. The Super T girders will travel from Macksville on trucks via the Pacific Highway and approved local roads.

Our first girders will be delivered to the new bridge over Newports Creek, between North Boambee Road and Englands Road. There are ten girders to be delivered for this bridge. They weigh about 69 tonnes each and are just under 34 metres long. On site, they will be lifted into position with a crane.

All Super T deliveries will be made during off-peak hours to reduce impacts to motorists and any classed as oversize and over mass will be escorted by a pilot vehicle.

Please remember to **ACT** when driving near trucks delivering Super T girders. These vehicles are unable to stop suddenly and may require traffic control to assist them through tight intersections. You will be given an opportunity to overtake when it is safe to do so.

We have 250 girders to lift in total. Road users can expect about six girder deliveries per day during peak construction later this year. Generally, we will only be lifting girders at two bridge sites at a time before moving onto the next.



Artist impression of girders under the Korora Hill Interchange bridge

Remember to

ACT

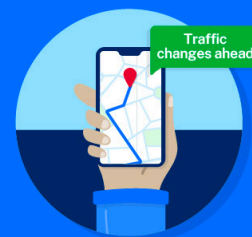
When driving through
the Coffs Harbour bypass



Be **Aware**



Be **Cautious**



Allow more **Time**

A spotlight on our people

It takes people to build a road. We currently have a workforce of more than 1,100 people and more than 60 percent of those are from the local area.

The project has engaged 74 local businesses and 20 Aboriginal businesses since major construction started, and this remains a key focus for us as the project moves into peak construction this year.

From our apprentices and undergraduates to our plant operators, environmental officers, engineers, surveyors, and traffic teams, everyone plays an important role in getting the job done.

We are striving to build a legacy of some incredible teamwork and look forward to making Coffs Harbour a better place to live and work.



Upcoming construction

The following construction activities can be expected in the next three months. We appreciate your patience and thank you for your support while we work to complete the Coffs Harbour bypass.

Alignment wide:

- Carrying out bulk earthworks and installing culverts and drains
- Building bridges including in-situ concrete pours and delivery and placement of precast elements
- Out of hours concrete pours for temperature, quality and safety reasons
- Controlled blasting to break hard rock
- Installing and relocating fencing, signage, linemarking and barriers
- Revegetating areas within the project boundary
- Building and maintaining existing environmental controls, including some out of hours work
- Road maintenance of pavement and vegetation, and street sweeping, including some out of hours work
- Carrying out survey, geotechnical and pavement investigations, including some out of hours work
- Out of hours internal project haulage and route maintenance
- Out of hours heavy vehicle movements for deliveries of machinery and materials on approved routes and within the project boundary
- Out of hours plant and machinery maintenance and refueling

- Drilling, hammering and shotcreting for tunnels, including extended hours on Saturdays.

North:

- Building Gatelys Road Tunnel, including controlled blasting during approved construction hours and 24/7 operations
- Preparing the Shephards Lane Tunnel portals, including building access points
- Changing local road, pedestrian, and cyclist access to the Pacific Highway between Bruxner Park Road and Sapphire Beach Interchange
- Out of hours median removal and pavement building along the Pacific Highway between Bruxner Park Road and Sapphire Beach Interchange
- Out of hours traffic switches on the Pacific Highway to move road users into different lanes between Bruxner Park Road and Sapphire Beach Interchange.

South

- Preparing the Roberts Hill Tunnel portals, including building access points
- Out of hours vegetation removal on the eastern side of the highway between Stadium Drive and Sawtell Road Interchange
- Out of hours pavement removal and reconstruction on Isles Drive
- Starting construction on the new bridge over the North Coast Railway Line near Shephards Lane, including some out of hours work
- Out of hours operations for the concrete batch plant on Englands Road.

Contact us

If you have any enquiries or complaints, or would like to subscribe to our updates, please contact the project team on **1800 550 621** or **community@chbteam.com.au**



1800 550 621



community@chbteam.com.au



**www.pacifichighway.nsw.gov.au/
coffsharbourbypass**



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**182 North Boambee Road,
North Boambee**



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 550 621**.

March 2024

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