



Australian Government



New South Wales Government



Bonville upgrade

Community update, January 2008

As part of the joint federal-state partnership arrangements for upgrading the Pacific Highway, the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has engaged Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd to undertake the design, construction and 10 year maintenance of the Pacific Highway Bonville upgrade. This 9.6km upgrade of the Pacific Highway commences in the south adjacent to Perrys Road and bypasses the Bonville village. It finishes at the junction of Lyons Road, approximately 11 km south of Coffs Harbour. This community update provides you with information on the project's progress.

The next major milestone for the project has been reached with the switch of Pacific Highway traffic onto the new service road between the Sid Burke rest area and Overhead Bridge Road. This will allow work to be completed on a section of the new northbound carriageway, including a proposed animal overpass structure and northbound heavy vehicle inspection bay area. Completion of this section means traffic will now be travelling on over 2km of new service road.

Reedys Road has been reconstructed to join the service road just east of the service road overbridges.

The Sid Burke rest area was closed temporarily in September 2007 and is currently planned to re-open mid 2008.

This recent traffic switch follows the switch in July 2007 onto a new service road between Perrys Road and Overhead Bridge Road. The fauna underpass in this area will also soon be operational.

In the short term, Mailmans Track traffic has also been diverted to either Valery Road or Hunters Forest Road.

Construction milestones achieved to date

- Commencement of substantial construction – November 2006.
- Opening of temporary Keevers Drive intersection – February 2007.
- Switching of traffic to service road A (east of Mailmans Track) – July 2007.

- Switching of traffic to service road B (east of Sid Burke rest area) – December 2007.
- Opening of Archville Station Road overbridge – December 2007.

Plants and animals

Before substantial construction began, final surveys for threatened flora species were undertaken. Threatened species were translocated to protected areas.

Clearing limits were established and temporary fauna fencing was erected adjacent to the existing highway south of Pine Creek. This helped protect any animals (especially koalas) that may have been disturbed by clearing operations.

Substantial construction began in November 2006 starting with vegetation clearing at the southern end. Clearing was completed in March 2007.

A two-stage clearing process was adopted. Hollow bearing trees were identified and removed only after initial clearing works were completed. Fauna specialists were on site during clearing to assist in the protection and rescue of native animals.

Mulched vegetation was reused from early in the project through the construction of mulch bunds to assist in the control of erosion and sedimentation.

Earthworks

To date, approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of material has been excavated and relocated through the

cut and fill process. Most of the earthworks are now complete. All earthworks operations are scheduled for completion mid March 2008.

Temporary traffic diversions are still in place at Archville Station Road, East Bonville Road and Williams Road.

Concrete paving

Commenced on the main alignment in May 2007 and will occur more frequently as work progresses. There are two types of pavement for the Bonville upgrade, a plain concrete pavement south of Reedys Creek and continuously reinforced concrete pavement with an asphalt surface north of Reedys Creek that provides a low noise surface.

Bridges

Archville Station Road bridge is now open to traffic. Traffic will use the roundabouts at either end. Access ramps to the new highway will not be completed until the second half of 2008. Mailmans Track is almost complete but will not open to public access until the second half of 2008 when associated works are ready. The north and southbound bridges (near the Sid Burke rest area) are nearing completion. Work is progressing well on the remaining 15 bridges on the project.

The substructures for the three sets of twin bridges for the fauna underpasses and Reedys Creek, East Bonville Road and Bonville Creek bridges are complete. Deck construction is in progress at Pine Creek, Bonville Station Road, Bonville Creek and Williams Road.

Environmental management

Measures to mitigate impacts to date include:

- At residence noise reduction works, including window glazing and air-conditioning where required.
- The early construction of a 4.5km temporary fauna fence and 1km permanent fauna fence to prevent animals including koalas crossing the existing highway during clearing and construction and then the upgraded highway.
- An additional 5.5km temporary fauna fence was constructed in August 2007 and 3km permanent fauna fence, in consultation with koala experts, to

further protect koalas during the remainder of the construction of the project.

- The construction of basins to collect stormwater runoff (and the sediments it contains) and other sediment control measures.
- The protection of both threatened plants and items of cultural heritage significance.
- Monitoring of dust, construction noise and vibration levels.



Temporary fauna fencing

Construction hours

Construction hours are Monday to Friday from 7am to 6pm and Saturday 8am to 1pm.

Some construction activities may require work outside these hours. Nearby residents will be notified of any works outside normal construction hours.

Safety

Please obey the signs to ensure worker and driver safety.

Where can I get more information?

For more information on the project:

Phone toll free 1800 725 321

Email: bonville@abigroup.com.au

Write: PO Box 8047, CHDC, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450.

Log on to the project website: www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific (click on Bonville upgrade) or log on to: www.auslink.gov.au

Visit the project information centre on Bonville Station Road, Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm (excluding public holidays).