



# Brunswick Heads to Yelgun community update

May 2006

The Roads and Traffic Authority has engaged Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd to undertake the design, construction and ten year maintenance of the 8.6km dual carriageway of the Pacific Highway between the Brunswick Heads south interchange and the southern end of the Yelgun to Chinderah freeway. It is jointly funded by the NSW and Australian governments, as part of the \$2.2 billion 10-year Pacific Highway Upgrading Program in New South Wales.

## Bridgeworks

Work is progressing, with construction of 20 of the 26 bridges now well advanced.

The RTA and construction team would like to thank the residents and management of the Ferry Reserve Caravan Park and all residents near the Brunswick River bridges and the Marshalls Creek bridges for their patience during the piling and bridge construction works.

### Brunswick River bridges

Piling work to prepare for the foundations of the new bridges is now complete. Work is well underway on the piers and abutments for the bridges, as well as the superstructure for the local service road bridge. Large tower cranes have now been erected on the northern and southern sides of the river to lift supplies of materials out to the form work for construction of the decks of the bridges.

Some intermittent closures to river craft may be required. Closure times will be notified on signage at the boat ramps at the Ferry Reserve Caravan Park (upstream) and the Brunswick Heads Fishermen's Co-operative (downstream) and advertised prior to the closure. River users are asked to consider safety and observe all navigational markers.

The local service road bridge is currently scheduled for completion in the second half of 2006 and the Brunswick River highway bridges are scheduled for completion by mid 2007.

To follow the construction progress of the bridges over the Brunswick River, log onto the project



**Above: Marshalls Creek bridge deck**

website, where photos from three webcams are being regularly updated.

### Marshalls Creek bridges

Piling for the local service road and the southbound carriageway for the Marshalls Creek and Marshalls Creek Overflow bridges was completed in late 2005. Substructures are now well advanced with installation of the precast beams and construction of the bridge decks to follow.

Upon completion, traffic diversions onto the new bridges will allow demolition of the old bridges to commence. This will be followed by the construction of the northbound bridges. Completion of the local road bridges is currently scheduled for mid-2006.

Detailed design of other bridge structures, including overpasses of Brunswick Heads Road, Bonanza Drive, Coolamon Scenic Drive, Stock Route Road, the Sewerage Treatment Plant access road, the Yelgun Interchange bridges and those along the Brunswick Heads bypass, are also progressing well. The early foundation works on these structures is well advanced.

## **Earthworks**

To date, approximately 1,300,000m<sup>3</sup> of material has been excavated and relocated through the 'cut and fill' process. The bulk earthworks are now mostly complete.

In some areas, wick drains and lengths of porous fabric tubing have been vertically inserted into the subsoil, providing a means of draining surplus moisture from the underlying soils. This accelerates the consolidation (settling) process.

## **Progressive revegetation**

Earthworks are progressing and many of the cut and fill batters have been spread with topsoil and seeded for stabilisation and dust management prior to the final landscaping works.

A number of contracts have now been awarded for the propagation of plant stock to provide for future landscaping. Many of these plants are being grown from seed collected from the project area, before and during vegetation clearing.

## **Retaining walls**

Retaining walls to limit the footprint on the sensitive environment along the corridor have started construction. Some retaining walls have been installed to stabilise the cutting of earthworks, whilst others required significant footings.

Where possible there will be landscaping and an architectural finish to help the retaining walls blend into the surroundings.

## **Yelgun rest area**

Bulk earthworks for the rest area and work on the adjacent local service road to separate local traffic from traffic accessing the rest area are well advanced.

## **Billinudgel landscaping plan**

The Billinudgel landscaping plan is a key component of the project. Additional traffic will enter Billinudgel via the industrial estate.

Consultation with affected property/business owners and the community liaison group for the project has taken place. A draft landscaping plan for the area was subsequently developed. This plan is available for viewing at the project information centre or by visiting the project website.

## **Environmental management**

Environmental mitigation measures to date include,

- The construction of sedimentation basins and erosion and sedimentation control measures.
- The installation of noise barriers.
- The use of fauna fencing. Surveys prior to clearing for plants, animals and special habitat.
- The protection in-situ of both threatened plants and items of cultural heritage significance.
- Monitoring for dust, construction noise and vibration.

## **Contact the project team**

Contact the community relations team toll free on **1800 071 144**, or visit the information centre at Brunswick Heads Road (opposite the Ferry Reserve Caravan Park) Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. Alternatively, you can direct your comments, inquiries or complaints by emailing [Brunswick@abigroup.com.au](mailto:Brunswick@abigroup.com.au) or by posting to:

### **Abigroup Community Relations Manager**

Terry Paxton

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For further information on the project, log onto the project website on at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific) (click on Brunswick Heads to Yelgun).

## **Or contact the RTA's senior project manager:**

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