



Project information centre

A project information centre has been established at the project site office in Brunswick Heads Road (opposite the Ferry Reserve Caravan Park), on the southern foreshore of the Brunswick River.

The information centre is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and provides access to a range of information materials, design details, photographs, a scale model of the project at the Brunswick River, as well as the project website, related web sites, and the various environmental documents for the project.

The community is invited to call into the information centre to view the display and discuss any aspect of the project with the community relations team.

Community liaison group

A community liaison group (CLG) for the project was established in 2001, in accordance with the planning conditions of approval for the project. In April 2005 nominations for additional representatives to join the existing CLG were called, and regular CLG meetings have now commenced for the design and construction phase of the project.

The CLG members represent a range of community and special interest groups, including environmental and historical groups and business organisations, the Byron Shire Council, Abigroup and the RTA.

Notes from the community liaison group meetings can be viewed on the project website or by visiting the information centre.

Project website

A detailed, user-friendly project website has now been established. The project website provides another opportunity for the project team to disseminate information to the community and to receive feedback.

The project website can be accessed by logging onto www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific and then clicking on Brunswick Heads to Yelgun.

The website is updated regularly and contains history of the project, design and construction details, current works and potential impacts to traffic, responses to frequently asked questions, minutes to the community liaison group meetings, copies of advertisements and community newsletters, display information, a photo gallery, including images of the Brunswick River bridge under construction and other current construction activities, and links to relevant websites.

Information is also available on the Australian Government's AusLink website address at www.auslink.gov.au.

Contacting the project team

To contact the project team, or for further information on the project, please contact our community relations team on 1800 071 144, or call in at the project information centre in Brunswick Heads Road (opposite the Ferry Reserve Caravan Park) Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. Alternatively, you can direct your comments and inquiries by posting to:

Abigroup Community Relations Manager
PO Box 369
Brunswick Heads NSW 2483.

→ For more information contact the Abigroup Community Relations Manager:
Terry Paxton
PO Box 369
Brunswick Heads NSW 2483

☎ 1800 071 144 (toll free)
Project information line

✉ brunswick@abigroup.com.au

🖱 www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific
(click on Brunswick Heads to Yelgun)


→ For more information contact the RTA's senior project manager:
Peter Borrelli
PO Box 7
New Brighton NSW 2483

☎ T 02 6684 8845 F 02 6684 8877

✉ Peter_Borrelli@rta.nsw.gov.au

🖱 www.auslink.gov.au

RTA/Pub. 05.305



Australian Government
Department of Transport and
Regional Services

Brunswick Heads to Yelgun

Upgrading the Pacific Highway

COMMUNITY UPDATE
DECEMBER 2005





The Brunswick Heads to Yelgun upgrade of the Pacific Highway involves the construction of 8.6 km of dual carriageway between the Brunswick Heads South interchange and the southern end of the Yelgun to Chinderah freeway. This project also involves substantial works to the old highway, which will become a local service road, to separate through and local traffic. 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.

Background

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) was granted approval by the then Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning to proceed to detailed design in 1999.

During 2001, the approved design was reviewed to address community concerns about social and ecological impacts, as well as the size and complexity of the project.

The proposed modified design was then displayed during May and June 2002. A second environmental impact assessment of the proposed modified design was conducted and displayed for public comment in late November and early December 2002.

The then NSW Minister for Infrastructure and Planning granted approval for the design modifications on 26 November 2003 and Byron Shire Council granted development consent on 16 January 2004 for a 'designated wetland' component.

Following these planning approvals, the RTA called tenders from suitably qualified and experienced contractors to design, construct and maintain the highway upgrade for 10 years. On 15 December 2004, Abigroup Contractors was announced as the recommended tenderer and a project deed was signed on 10 February 2005.



Seagrass translocation in the Brunswick River prior to bridge construction

Key features of the project

The project includes:

- Dual carriageways connecting the previously completed Yelgun to Chinderah and Tandys Lane upgrades.
- Duplication of the existing Brunswick Heads Bypass, including duplication of two bridges and drainage / fauna underpass structures.
- The creation of approximately 6.5 km of adjacent parallel service road between Brunswick Heads Road and the Tweed Valley Way at Yelgun, to separate through and local traffic.
- Grade separated interchanges at Brunswick Heads North and at Yelgun.
- A high standard at grade intersection with the northbound carriageway at Wilfred Street, Billinudgel.
- Three balanced cantilever concrete bridges crossing the Brunswick River; to accommodate six-lanes plus a pedestrian/cycle way.
- Six new bridges over Marshalls Creek and floodplain.
- Two new roundabouts where Rajah Road and Orana Road intersect with the local service road.

- Five local road overpass structures (Brunswick Heads Road, Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) access road, Orana Road, service road connection to Billinudgel via the El Dorado estate, and the connection to Stock Route Road north).
- A pedestrian overbridge connection between Ocean Shores (Balerno Drive) and Billinudgel (Wilfred Street).
- Shared pedestrian/bicycle paths, including a timber boardwalk along the southern foreshore beneath the Brunswick River bridges.
- A noise sensitive (low noise) stone mastic asphalt pavement (between the Brunswick River and Yelgun).
- Landscaping that includes the planting and maintenance of over 130,000 plants.
- Numerous environmental measures, including constructed wetlands to treat road run-off, as well as urban drainage from Ocean Shores, before reaching sensitive waterways; fauna underpasses and fencing; native seed collection; the translocation of all threatened, endangered and regionally significant flora from the footprint and sea grass in the Brunswick River; the erection of noise barriers and at-residence treatments of noise affected properties; and a substantial compensatory habitat package.

What's happened to date

Since February 2005, substantial progress on the project has been made. A significant effort has been devoted to preparing the construction environmental management plans (EMP) for the project. These plans have addressed all of the key environmental issues, including flora and fauna, soil and water management, acid sulphate soils, operational noise, construction noise and vibration, flooding and drainage, indigenous and non-indigenous heritage, urban and landscape design, air quality, spoil disposal and waste management. The EMPs were developed in consultation with the relevant government agencies, including Byron Shire Council.

Detailed design of the various components of the project, including 26 separate bridge structures, 28 retaining walls, and connections to the local roads and the multitude of service relocations is progressing well.

Prior to commencing substantial construction, preliminary activities included site establishment, surveying, native seed collection, boundary fencing, additional geotechnical testing, translocation of sea grass and threatened plant species, and construction of temporary sedimentation basins.

Approval to commence substantial construction was received in July 2005 and major site works have now commenced.



Driving a pile casing for the Brunswick River bridges

Key activities that have commenced or been undertaken to date include:

- Clearing of the corridor.
- Construction of two temporary rock platforms in the Brunswick River, to allow access for bridge piling and construction work.
- Construction of the foundations for the Brunswick River bridges, including the driving of steel casings, and excavation to sound rock.
- Pile driving of concrete piles for the foundations of the bridges at Marshalls Creek and Marshalls Creek Overflows.
- Ground foundation treatments and earthworks.
- Implementation of a number of traffic switches and changed traffic arrangements for the safety of road users and construction workers.
- Commencement of retaining walls and a noise wall north of Rajah Road.

The project is currently scheduled to be completed in early 2007.

Upcoming activities

In the coming months, construction work is expected to intensify with major earthworks and bridge works continuing, and the commencement of a number of the other bridges, retaining walls and traffic switches.