

COFFS HARBOUR BYPASS (CSSI-7666)
ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE MONTHLY REPORT
December 2023

Reporting Period: 1 to 31 December 2023

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:
 - establishment of site compounds and ancillary facilities;
 - installation of site controls, including fencing, signs, sediment basins, vehicle washdown bays;
 - construction of site access tracks;
 - construction of temporary drainage channels and waterway diversions;
 - bulk earthworks, including rock hammering, crushing, screening, blasting;
 - installation of permanent drainage; and
 - bridge construction.
- 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.



December 2023 Works Summary

Main Construction

- Establishment of site compounds and ancillary facilities.
- Installation of erosion and sediment controls, including sediment basins.
- Installation of construction access / egress points, including vehicle washbays for Panama disease control.
- Construction of temporary drainage channels and waterway diversions.
- Bulk earthworks, including rock hammering, crushing, screening and controlled blasting.
- Tunnel portal establishment.
- Installation of permanent drainage (e.g., cross-drainage pipes and culverts).
- Demolition of buildings and structures.
- Bridge construction, including establishment of piling pads and bored piling.
- Concrete batch plant operation.

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 343 properties and 340 properties have been treated. It is anticipated that 343 properties will be treated by the end of January 2024.
- 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 commenced, with 25 inspections completed in December 2023 and the remaining 5 to be inspected by the end of January 2024.
- 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.



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.

January 2024 Upcoming Works

Main Construction

- Establishment of site compounds and ancillary facilities.
- Installation of erosion and sediment controls, including sediment basins.
- Installation of construction access / egress points, including vehicle washbays for Panama disease control.
- Construction of temporary drainage channels and waterway diversions.
- Bulk earthworks, including rock hammering, crushing, screening and controlled blasting.
- Tunnel portal establishment.
- Installation of drainage structures (e.g., cross-drainage pipes and culverts).
- Demolition of buildings and structures.
- Bridge construction, including establishment of piling pads and bored piling.
- Concrete batch plant operation.

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

- Finalisation of the scope of noise treatment works will continue at the remaining properties.
- Implementation of noise treatment works will continue.
- A report on delays to the implementation of residential noise treatment works, as required by MCoA E50, was submitted to DPE in December.

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 (FGJV #52) – Gatelys Rd and Shephards Ln tunnels – Early morning start for spraying of shotcrete to meet quality requirements during hot weather: Review and approve.
- OOHW Application (FGJV #55) – Korora Hill Interchange Bridges 18 & 19 – Early morning start for concrete pours to meet quality requirements during hot weather: Review and approve.
- Minor Construction Ancillary Facility (FGJV) – Bruxner Park Rd, south-west of intersection with Pacific Highway - office, crib sheds, toilet block, parking: Review and approve.
- MCoA E50 Report on non-implementation of operational noise mitigation measures: Review and endorse.
- Monthly Acoustic Advisor (AA) Report (November): Review.
- Weekly community complaints register: Review.

Site Inspections

A site inspection occurred on:

- 13th December 2023 with the AA and DPE, TfNSW, IC and EPA representatives

Meetings / Workshops

- A Monthly Project Update Meeting was held on the 13th December 2023, with the AA and DPE, TfNSW, EPA and FGJV representatives. Some participants attended the meeting in person, while others connected via video call.
- Weekly meetings with the AA, DPE and environment and community representatives from TfNSW and FGJV are ongoing.
- Meeting with DPE, TfNSW, FGJV and consultants on 6th December 2023 to receive a briefing on the Place Design and Landscape Plan, which was released for public consultation during December.

Reports

- MCoA A25(j): Environmental Representative Monthly Report (November 2023) – Prepared and submitted to DPE (Infrastructure Management & Compliance) via Major Projects Portal on 6th December 2023.

Environmental Performance

Stop Work Notices

There were no Stop Work Notices.

Incidents (as per MCoA definition)

There were no incidents.



Non-compliances

- A non-compliance associated with the use of an unapproved local road by heavy vehicles was reported in December. A complaint from a member of the community on 1st December 2023 triggered an investigation of whether an unapproved local road had been used by the project team. It was subsequently determined that a non-compliance with MCoA E87 had occurred because concrete agitator trucks had used Russ Hammond Dr (an unapproved route) to access the project site on the 29th and 30th November 2023. Further details regarding this non-compliance will be provided in the January monthly report.

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

There were no environmental events.

Positive Observations / Lessons Learnt / Opportunities for Improvement

None for this month.

Changes to the Project

Documentation

No changes this month.

Community Consultation and Complaints

FGJV Consultation Summary

- The team worked collaboratively to prepare and distribute the draft Place Design and Landscape Plan (PDLP) and supporting collateral, including the December Project Update, eight precinct fact sheets, two Facebook posts, a media release, and email and SMS updates.
- The team organised and attended six community information sessions attended by 100 people. About 50 people have submitted feedback, however initial analysis confirms majority of submissions are about other project matters and are unrelated to place design and landscaping.
- The team attended six community information van sessions in addition to those arranged for the draft PDLP consultation. The van sessions were attended by about 60 people. The most popular location was the Coffs Grower's Market which was visited by 43 people.
- Weekly updates were distributed on Fridays in December advising the community about upcoming traffic changes, controlled blasting and community information van locations.
- Presented a project update to NSW Police
- The team attended eleven meetings with stakeholders in December. Key themes included dust, Property Adjustment Plans and at-house noise mitigation.

FGJV Notifications and Fact Sheets

- South: Geotechnical investigation on the Pacific Highway, Boambee
- North: Out of hours concrete pours for bridges in Korora
- North: Construction work on the Pacific Highway, Korora



- Fact sheet: Tunnelling
- Fact sheet: Bridge building
- Fact sheet: Draft Place Design and Landscape Plan - Englands Road Interchange
- Fact sheet: Draft Place Design and Landscape Plan - Roberts Hill Tunnel
- Fact sheet: Draft Place Design and Landscape Plan - Coramba Road Interchange
- Fact sheet: Draft Place Design and Landscape Plan - Shephards Lane Tunnel
- Fact sheet: Draft Place Design and Landscape Plan - Gatelys Road Tunnel
- Fact sheet: Draft Place Design and Landscape Plan - Korora Hill Interchange
- Fact sheet: Draft Place Design and Landscape Plan - Korora Bus Interchange
- Fact sheet: Draft Place Design and Landscape Plan - Pacific Highway north

Complaints and Enquiries

There were more than 260 interactions with stakeholders during December, with 12 complaints and 9 enquiries managed by the team. Trending themes include dust, traffic safety and access. More information regarding complaints is highlighted in the graphs below.

Closing Remarks

The FGJV team has continued to make good progress with earthworks, drainage installation and bored piling. Periods of dry and windy weather continue to pose challenges associated with dust generation. There is a heavy reliance on the use of water carts for dust suppression in areas with active earthworks.

The team is in a routine of typically undertaking 3 to 5 controlled blasts per week spread across several locations, and these blasts are considered to be well planned and managed. The utility relocation works are almost finished, with the key remaining work being the installation of new electrical infrastructure along Bray St and Mackays Rd. Other utility relocation work areas are in the process of being rehabilitated and stabilised.

A key focus during December was preparing the site for the Christmas / New Year period shutdown. 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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Attachment: Photos from Site Inspections – December 2023



Photos from Site Inspections – December 2023



Image 1: Englands Rd Interchange, south side (Ch10700) – Sediment basin, with bridge piles in background



Image 2: North Boambee Rd, south side, Bridge 3 (Ch11700) – Bored piling



Image 3: Roberts Hill tunnel south portal, Cut 4 / Fill 4 (Ch13300) – Ongoing earthworks



Image 4: Roberts Hill tunnel north portal (Ch13800) – Ongoing earthworks



Image 5: Coramba Rd, north side, Fill 7 (Ch15200) – Preparation for cross-drainage pipe installation



Image 6: Shephards Ln tunnel north portal (Ch17500) – Sediment basin and adjacent clean water diversion drain



Image 7: Korora Hill Interchange, Fill 17 (Ch21000) – Earthworks and bored piling for bridges



Image 8: Pine Brush Ck, Bridge 21 (Ch22400) – Installation of creek diversion