

Main Road 92 Upgrade, Nowra to Nerriga

September 2009 update

Earlier this month Stage two of the MR92 upgrade, the nine kilometres which extends from the Touga Road junction (just east of the Bulee Mountain area at Billy's Hill) to Nerriga, was officially opened at the Bulee Bridge site. This stage, constructed by NACE Civil Engineering Pty Ltd included major improvements, widening, realigning and sealing of the steep and narrow section of road from Bulee Gap to the Endrick River. A feature of this section of the upgrade was construction of the four span concrete bridge near Bulee Gap that was opened to traffic in July.

The new bridge and high retaining walls have been constructed to conserve the "beehive" rock formations and colonial heritage features in the Bulee Heritage Area at the western end of Morton National Park. Stone retaining walls and remnants of the winding 1856 Wool Road have been carefully preserved and the old road has been retained without revegetation as an historical record. In addition, on the descent to the Endrick River a fauna underpass with "floppy top" fencing allows koalas and other native animals to cross the new road safely.

Site work on Stage three, the final stage of the 54 kilometre MR92 Upgrade commenced in July. This \$25 million contract, awarded to NACE Civil Engineering Pty Ltd, is expected to be completed in late 2010. Extensive sections east and west of Sassafras have now been cleared and the scope of the improvements to the road alignment can now be appreciated. In these sections earthworks are progressing well and pavement construction has commenced at the eastern end near Tianjara Falls. As earthworks are completed traffic will be switched progressively to the new alignment. Clearing work is anticipated to start in the Sassafras area next month.

This stage will deliver 20 kilometres of upgraded road from Tianjara Falls to Billy's Hill near Bulee Gap and will link the first two stages of the upgrade. Much of this stage of the construction is adjacent to Morton National Park or through Sassafras. While most of the road works closely follow the existing alignment there will be major improvements to the steep incline east of Sassafras.

Stage one, the 24 kilometres from Hames Road, Nowra to Morton National Park, was finished in June 2007.

For all enquiries concerning operational matters relating to construction activities, please call the NACE Civil Engineering Pty Ltd site engineer, Merv Eagle on **0424 667 174**, or the project supervisor, Bob Meins on **0412 464 866**.

Changes to road conditions

Motorists are advised to drive carefully throughout the construction area as the road conditions are variable on the remaining sections of gravel road. Traffic will be switched to the new alignment progressively as sections are being completed. Particular care should be taken in wet weather as the unsealed sections of the road can be slippery and suitable only for 4WD vehicles.

For current road conditions visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au/trafficreports .