

Main Road 92 Upgrade, Nowra to Nerriga

January 2009 update

Stage one construction

The first stage of the \$80 million upgrade of Main Road 92, comprising the 24 kilometre section from Hames Road westerly to Morton National Park, has been open to traffic since May 2007 and the final bitumen seal of this section was completed in March this year.

Stage two construction

A \$22.5 million contract for the second stage of the upgrade, comprising the nine kilometre section from 44 kilometres west of Hames Road (near the Touga Road junction just east of the Bulee mountain area at Billy's Hill) to the village of Nerriga, was awarded to Nace Civil Engineering Pty Ltd in July 2007.

This stage includes major improvements, widening, realigning and sealing to the existing steep and narrow section from Bulee Gap to the Endrick River. Traffic is being progressively switched onto the new alignment as earthworks are completed. A one kilometre length of new pavement was sealed in the Billy's Hill section before Christmas 2008 and a further 2.5 kilometres has been sealed near Nerriga.

A temporary road closure of one week duration **from 6am February 23 until 6pm 1 March 2009** is planned between Endrick River and Touga Road to enable retaining walls to be constructed on the steep western approach to the new Bulee Bridge. The closure will be widely advertised and there will be extensive signposting alerting motorists to the closure. For enquiries regarding the road closure, please contact the NACE Civil Engineering Pty Ltd site engineer, Clinton Woods on **0412 490 602**.

Construction of Stage two is expected to be completed in mid 2009.

For all enquiries concerning operational matters relating to construction activities for Stage two, please call the NACE Civil Engineering Pty Ltd site engineer, Clinton Woods on **0412 490 602**, or the project supervisor, Bob Meins on **0412 464 866**.

Stage three construction tendering

The tenders received for the Stage three of the Main Road 92 upgrade indicate that a budget of \$95 million is required to complete the full project.

To complete Stage three, an additional \$15 million in funding is needed. This is due to substantial increases in the civil construction industry. The cost increase of \$80 million to \$95 million represents a small increase of only two per cent per annum.

Discussions for the additional funding are still in negotiations between the State and Federal government. It is anticipated that a contract will be awarded for either the full, or a reduced, scope of work in the next few months.

Changes to road conditions

Motorists are advised to drive carefully throughout the construction area and also on the remaining section of gravel road as the road conditions are variable. 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