



MEDIA RELEASE

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FIRST OF A NUMBER OF MAJOR TRAFFIC SWITCHES BEGIN FOR THE BALLINA BYPASS PROJECT

On the Pacific Highway traffic will be moved onto a newly built diversion as work continues on the Cumbalum to Ross Lane section of the Ballina bypass.

Works starts this **Monday 2 February 2009** just west of the existing highway between Old Bangalow Road and north of Sandy Flat Road in Tintenbar.

An RTA spokesperson said this is the first of two traffic switches planned for this section being upgraded and begins the major earthworks for the new highway in this area.

“The second traffic switch just north of Deadmans Creek Road near Cumbalum is expected to take place around mid 2009,” the spokesperson said.

Another traffic switch is planned for works on the Teven Road interchange in late February (weather permitting) to allow the next stage of the new interchange to be constructed.

“Work is progressing well on the overall Ballina bypass project with the start of construction of the Ross Lane bridge. The Teven interchange bridge and piling platforms for the Cumbalum flood relief bridge are also underway and work has also started on the bridge at Emigrant Creek south,” the spokesperson said.

“Long lead times have also been arranged to stabilise sections where the soil is soft on the Richmond River floodplain before the main pavement can be constructed,” the spokesperson said.

The project is expected to open in stages including the:

- Opening of the Cumbalum to Ross Lane section by late 2010.
- Opening of the Bruxner Highway to Cumbalum interchange section by mid 2012.

“The Ballina bypass project will provide 12.4 kilometres of dual carriageway, extending from south of Ballina at the intersection of the Bruxner and Pacific Highways to north of Ballina at the Ross Lane intersection, Tintenbar,” the spokesperson said.

“This project is part of the continuing Pacific Highway Upgrade Program - delivering safer roads and cutting travel times.

The project is jointly funded by the Federal and New South Wales governments.

“Motorists are asked to take extra care during the changed traffic conditions and observe all project signs and traffic control directions.

“The RTA would like to thanks motorists for their patience throughout this important work,” the spokesperson said.

For more information please visit the Pacific Highway section of the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au (click on Ballina bypass).