

# MEDIA RELEASE



New South Wales Government



**2 MARCH 2009**

## **CHANGED TRAFFIC CONDITIONS FOR NEW SECTION OF PACIFIC HIGHWAY KARUAH TO BULAHDELAH**

Traffic will soon be switched onto a new 2.2km section of the future northbound carriageway as part of the 23km Karuah to Bulahdelah upgrade.

An RTA spokesperson said once traffic has been moved to this section of the new northbound carriageway, the existing section of highway will be reconstructed to form the southbound carriageway of the new dual carriageways.

“This is the last of three traffic changes that will have motorists travelling on new concrete pavement over the full length of the project,” the spokesperson said.

“During the week starting 2 March 2009 (weather permitting), changed traffic conditions will see motorists moved to a new section of northbound carriageway which starts just south of Jack’s Creek and finishes just north of Grey Gum Gully.

“The completed section is part of the 23km Karuah to Bulahdelah (sections two and three) upgrade, which is jointly-funded by the NSW and Federal governments,” the spokesperson said.

“The project was contracted to Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd to carry out design, construction and maintenance over a 10-year period.

“The full 23km project starts about two kilometres north of Myall Way and ends about one kilometre south of Booral Road, which is about three kilometres south of Bulahdelah.

“It involves construction of seven new twin bridges and rest areas on the northbound carriageway at Nerong Waterholes and the southbound carriageway at Browns Flat.

“The new highway will connect to existing local roads such as Viney Creek Road West, Viney Creek Road East, Whimbrel Drive and Myall River Road.

“The RTA and Abigroup ensured local and wider communities were kept up-to-date throughout the upgrade by holding community meetings, issuing updates,

doing letterbox drops, liaising with property owners and providing a free community information line.

“Extensive environmental assessment has also been carried out along the way, with eight fauna crossings and about nine kilometres of fauna exclusion fencing included in the proposal,” the spokesperson said.

Other features of the project include:

- Truck stopping area with emergency telephones and emergency turning points
- Bus bays and turn around areas on major side roads
- Provision for cyclists.
- Drainage crossings, fauna underpasses and crossings at Nerong Road, Waterholes Gap and Burdekin’s Gap.

“With motorists travelling on the new section of pavement over the full length of the project, driving conditions will be greatly improved,” the spokesperson said.

“Residents are still reminded that the project is still a construction site and motorists are asked to observe all project signage and any traffic control directions,” the spokesperson said.

The RTA thanks motorists for their patience throughout this important work.

The first of the changed traffic conditions occurred on 31 October 2008 and the second on 18 December 2008.