



Justine Elliot

Federal Member for Richmond



Michael Daley

NSW Minister for Roads

Joint News Release

Wednesday 25 March 2009

PLANNING APPROVAL GRANTED FOR BANORA POINT UPGRADE

Federal Member for Richmond Justine Elliot and NSW Minister for Roads Michael Daley today announced planning approval has been granted for the early start of the Banora Point upgrade on the Pacific Highway.

Ms Elliot said the Banora Point upgrade will commence six months ahead of schedule due to the accelerated funding the Rudd Government put towards this project in its \$4.7 billion Nation Building Package announced in December 2008.

"The Rudd Labor Government is delivering on its commitment to upgrade the Pacific Highway and this project will see significant safety benefits and time savings throughout this section during the morning peak," Ms Elliot said.

"This planning approval means we're well on track to see full construction on this project commence by the end of this year – a full six months ahead of the original schedule.

"The upgrade will provide a 2.5 kilometre dual carriageway from the northern end of Barneys Point Bridge through to the southern end of the Tweed Heads bypass.

"The completed Pacific Highway upgrade will mean 664 kilometres of continuous dual carriageway from the F3 Freeway near Hexham to the Tugun Bypass on the Queensland border."

NSW Minister for Roads Michael Daley said preconstruction activities will now start including further field investigations and the start of the tender process.

"This upgrade will significantly improve road safety and ease congestion on this section of the Pacific Highway," Mr Daley said.

"The NSW Government will work very closely and cooperatively with the Federal Government to ensure that construction starts shortly now that planning is finalised.

"The Banora Point upgrade is one of several projects on the Pacific Highway targeted as a priority for both the State and Federal Governments."

Mr Daley said the upgrade will include:

- A six-lane divided highway, with an improved alignment and a posted speed limit of 100km/h,
- Use of the existing Pacific Highway as a local access road,
- Connection of south-facing ramps at Barneys Point Bridge with a southern interchange roundabout,
- A landbridge about 100m wide which will provide a parkland connection between east and west Banora Point at Wilson Park,
- A viaduct about 330m long across the central valley south of Sexton Hill,
- Realignment of Laura Street to meet with Short Street and the existing Pacific Highway at a four-way intersection with traffic lights,
- A new northern interchange, with north-facing ramps connecting to the Darlington Drive intersection, south-facing ramps connecting directly to Minjungbal Drive and an extension of Minjungbal Drive, passing below the proposed upgrade and connecting to Darlington Drive; and
- Realignment and upgrade of the existing coastal cycle pedestrian route through Banora Point.

An animated fly through of the approved project is available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific - click on Banora Point.

The planning approval documents are also on display at the following locations:

- Tweed Shire Council, Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah (Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm).
- Tweed Shire Council, Brett Street, Tweed Heads (Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm).
- RTA Motor Registry, Greenway Drive, Tweed Heads South (Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm).
- RTA Pacific Highway Office, 21 Prince Street, Grafton (Mon-Fri, 8.30am-4.30pm).
- RTA Head Office, Level 9, 101 Miller Street North Sydney (Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm).

The planning approval can also be viewed on the Department of Planning's website (www.planning.nsw.gov.au).

Media Contacts

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