



**The Hon. Jim Lloyd MP
Australian Minister for Local
Government, Territories & Roads**



**The Hon. Eric Roozendaal MLC
NSW Minister for Roads
NSW Minister for Commerce**

J O I N T M E D I A R E L E A S E

COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE PACIFIC HIGHWAY MILESTONE

A community day, likely to attract 5000 people, will be staged to celebrate the next major milestone in the multi-million dollar conversion of the Pacific Highway to four lanes when the \$256 million Brunswick Heads–Yelgun project opens next month.

The Australian Government Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Jim Lloyd, and the New South Wales Roads Minister, Eric Roozendaal, today announced that traffic will switch to the 8.7 kilometre new roadway on 11 July, completing continuous four-lane conditions along the Pacific Highway for over 60 kilometres south of the Queensland border.

Mr Lloyd said: “It is great to see the Brunswick Heads–Yelgun deviation all but finished. When it opens next month, almost 40 per cent of the Pacific Highway north of Newcastle to the border will be converted to four lanes. I look forward to completion of the Bonville duplication, south of Coffs Harbour, which is the next major project to be done as we move ahead with the Pacific Highway upgrade.

“Following opening of the Brunswick Heads–Yelgun project, construction contracts will be in place for duplicating a further 64.6 kilometres of the 677 kilometres of highway between the Hunter River and Tweed Heads. There has never been so much construction work on the Pacific Highway at the same time,” Mr Lloyd said.

Mr Roozendaal said the continuing Pacific Highway upgrade is one of the biggest projects ever undertaken in this country.

“A community event will be held on 8 July, the Sunday before the official opening. People will be able to walk or cycle along the full length of the project and have an opportunity to voluntarily make a donation for the privilege, with the proceeds going to charity.”

Final details are being arranged through the RTA’s Pacific Highway Project Office and an organising committee representing local community groups.

Activities planned for the day included:

- bus tours of the route;
- food stalls and market stalls;
- buskers, bands and a jumping castle; displays, and even a colouring-in competition for local school children.

Mr Lloyd said an auction associated with the opening would raise money for the local surf club and volunteer rescue association. The main item is a cricket bat signed by the NSW cricket team. “The old Brunswick River name plates will be handed to the local historical society as part of the official proceedings on the day,” he said.

“The project incorporates new twin bridges over the Brunswick River, interchanges at North Brunswick Heads and Yelgun, and duplication of the Brunswick Heads bypass. The design includes a simplified interchange and balanced cantilever bridge with fewer pylons at the Brunswick River and highway access for northbound vehicles at Billinudgel.

“The existing highway will be retained to provide off-highway access between local communities.”

Mr Roozendaal said the new highway section would not open immediately following the community day. “We will wait until after the weekend traffic and move to change signs and linemarkings progressively, ahead of a traffic switch on Wednesday 11 July 2007.

“It’s planned to open the new northbound carriageway in the morning and then, four to five hours later, open the southbound carriageway,” he said.

Mr Lloyd and Mr Roozendaal thanked local residents for their patience during the construction phase. Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd won the contract for the design, construction and maintenance for 10 years of the Brunswick Heads to Yelgun upgrade. Work began in April 2005.

Those wanting further information about the community day, or wishing to participate can phone a toll-free number, 1800 071 144

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