

# Case Study



## Pacific Highway upgrade Brunswick Heads to Yelgun

### Protection of a threatened bird species

During construction of the Brunswick Heads to Yelgun project, a pair of Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus longirostris*) listed as vulnerable on Schedule 2 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* were identified. The birds were nesting on a gravel mound adjacent to a vehicle access track on the eastern side of the project within the construction footprint.

It is quite unusual for these birds to roost in this type of location as Pied Oystercatchers usually nest on sand, shell grit or shingle just above high water mark on beaches, sandbars, margins of estuaries and lagoons and seldom allow close approach by people.

Following discovery of the nest, the RTA worked closely with the contractor to create an exclusion zone to protect the birds by installing parawebbing around the nesting area and implementing alternate vehicle access arrangements.

The RTA worked with a shore bird expert to develop strategies to ensure the wellbeing of the nesting birds, whilst at the same time allowing construction works to progress. On Sunday 19 November an egg was hatched successfully.



**Left** -A Pied Oystercatcher nest protected with parawebbing on a vehicle access track.



**Right** – Successful outcome.



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