



# **UPGRADING THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY BALLINA BYPASS Progress Update – March 2004**

This is the first in a series of progress updates for the Ballina Bypass project, which is being funded as part of the 10-year Pacific Highway Upgrading Program, comprising \$1.6 billion from the NSW Government and \$600 million from the Australian Government.

Updates will be published regularly to keep the community informed of current and future activities.

## **Preconstruction Activities**

Currently, field work associated with geotechnical investigations is in progress. The information gained from the geotechnical investigations will be used in the detailed design of the project.

Acquisition of property for the bypass is also currently in progress with many negotiations currently underway.

## **Construction Activities (for coming three months)**

In March 2004, RTA Northern Road Services will commence preliminary works to fast-track ground settlement in soft soil areas along the route for the Ballina Bypass. These preliminary works will be undertaken progressively at Duck Creek, Teven Road and Cumbalum.

The work will involve construction of the first stage of a new embankment beside the existing Pacific Highway at Duck Creek, south of Ballina. Further loading of the previously constructed trial embankments will be undertaken near the highway at Teven Road and Cumbalum.

## **Changed Traffic Arrangements**

In the interests of safety, motorists and local residents should note the following changed traffic arrangements:

- A permanent 80 km/h speed limit applies at Duck Creek in the vicinity of the Bruxner Highway intersection and 60 or 40km/h roadworks speed zones may also be applied on a daily basis to maintain worker and road user safety during certain construction activities.
- Haulage of fill material to the worksite will occur intermittently, involving a number of truck movements. Traffic controllers will be used to ensure safety at these times.

## **Working Hours**

Construction activities will be undertaken from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

**For more information, contact the RTA on 1800 653 092 (freecall).**