Joint Media Statement

November 3, 2016

Jobs to flow from delivery of Pacific Highway site compounds

- Contract awarded to deliver site compounds for the Woolgoolga to Ballina section
- Site compounds will help contractors build the 155-kilometre upgrade
- Fully duplicated Pacific Highway on track for completion by 2020

The Woolgoolga to Ballina section of the Pacific Highway upgrade continues to create job opportunities, with Shamrock Civil Engineering awarded the contract to deliver seven temporary site compounds for the project.

Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester said the contract was another milestone toward having two lanes in each direction for the entire Pacific Highway between Hexham and the Queensland border by 2020.

“This project is already saving lives with fatal crashes having halved in recent years, down from more than 40 a year before the upgrade started, to now be around about 20 each year,” Mr Chester said.

“It is still too high – but real progress is being made.

“The Australian and New South Wales governments’ multi-billion-dollar investment in the Pacific Highway is also an important generator of economic activity in local communities.”

Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan welcomed the creation of new local job opportunities and said initial works on the compounds would start almost immediately, with major construction beginning next year.

“Site compounds will be built at Glenugie, Tyndale, Woombah, Devils Pulpit, Broadwater and Pimlico. Most will feature temporary offices and amenities, staff and truck parking, workshops for plant and equipment maintenance, and storage areas. The tender to manage these facilities is also being assessed,” Mr Hogan said.

“Establishing site compounds early means contractors can start work on the upgrade much sooner because key facilities will already be in place.”

New South Wales Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight Duncan Gay said a number of contracts were out to tender for the project, including piling and precast for the more than 100 bridges needed for the upgrade and the contract to design and build the bridge over the Richmond River.
“About $1 billion worth of contracts will be issued for tender to shortlisted contractors between now and the end of the year,” Mr Gay said.

“These include close to $800 million of major civil work across the upgrade and a number of bridges packages.”

New South Wales Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis said it was exciting to see early work starting between Richmond River and Coolgardie Road, which will improve road safety and ensure more efficient travel for the thousands of motorists that use the highway every day.

“Early work involves installing environmental controls, fencing, planting Koala food trees and upgrading intersections at Carlisle Street and the Pacific Highway, and at Carlisle Street and Bath Street at Wardell,” Mr Gulaptis said.

“There is currently 90 kilometres of work underway with the project on target to meet its 2020 delivery date.”

The Australian and New South Wales governments are jointly funding the Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade on an 80:20 basis.