Wildlife roost and nest along Woolgoolga to Ballina section of Pacific Highway upgrade

- Final 61 nest boxes to be installed between Richmond River and Pimlico, providing fauna safe places to roost and nest
- Pacific Highway upgrade continues and is on track for completion by 2020

Animals will soon have new places to roost and nest, as work on the Pacific Highway upgrade continues, with the installation of the final stage of nest boxes between Richmond River and Pimlico set to begin.

Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester said the nest boxes were part of the commitment to carefully manage ecologically sensitive natural environments during work to upgrade the highway.

“The 61 new nest boxes will be installed prior to vegetation clearing, to help mitigate the loss of tree habitats,” Mr Chester said.

“Around 700 nest boxes are being installed between Glenugie and Ballina as part of a suite of measures aimed at ensuring the highest level of biodiversity protection.

“The Pacific Highway upgrade is Australia’s largest single road infrastructure project.”

New South Wales Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight Melinda Pavey said the 900 hectares to be cleared for the project will be fully offset.

“Whether it is installing nest boxes, fencing, crossing structures, or carefully timing work, the Woolgoolga to Ballina project team is learning from the extensive experience and successes on other parts of the Pacific Highway upgrade,” Mrs Pavey said.

“Suitably qualified ecologists will monitor and maintain the nest boxes twice a year during the upgrade and for several years after the highway opens to traffic.”

Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan said 249 nest boxes have already been installed along the Halfway Creek to Glenugie section, and are now home to a range of wildlife including possums, gliders and birds.

“We have developed management plans for a number of threatened, endangered and regionally significant species along the length of the 155 kilometre Woolgoolga to Ballina section,” Mr Hogan said.

“We have also started to install approximately 16 kilometres of koala exclusion fencing on local roads and the existing Pacific Highway to help prevent koalas being killed by vehicles.”
New South Wales Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis said work to install nest boxes between Richmond River and Pimlico would take approximately two months to complete.

“It is pleasing to see great progress being made, both on the protection of fauna and the environment,” Mr Gulaptis said.

The Australian and New South Wales governments are funding the Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade on an 80:20 basis. For more information on the project visit: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/W2B.

The Pacific Highway upgrade remains on track to open to traffic by 2020.

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