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**Final bridge contracts awarded on Pacific Highway upgrade**

The flow of investment and job opportunities on the Woolgoolga to Ballina section of the Pacific Highway upgrade is continuing, with contracts awarded to deliver 17.5 kilometres of new highway between Broadwater and Pimlico, along with a further 13 bridges.

Lend Lease Pty Ltd has been awarded the contract to build main civil works for 17.5 kilometres of new highway between the Richmond River at Broadwater and Pimlico Road at Pimlico. Quickway Constructions Pty Ltd has been awarded the final bridge building contract to deliver 13 bridges between Richmond River and Coolgardie Road at Coolgardie.

Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester said the bridges were a key part of the highway upgrade.

“These bridges will reduce flooding impacts on the highway, improving safety, travel times and travel reliability for the thousands of motorists who use the highway every day. The upgrade of the Pacific Highway is a critical part of the Coalition’s record $75 billion investment in infrastructure, which is delivering a stronger and safer national road network.”” Mr Chester said.

NSW Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight Melinda Pavey said the award of the seventh and final bridge building contract meant six different and experienced companies would deliver bridges between Glenugie and Ballina.

“This includes the two longest bridges of the upgrade, the 1.2-kilometre bridge across the Clarence River at Harwood and the one-kilometre bridge across the Richmond River at Broadwater,” Mrs Pavey said.

Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan said the ongoing surge of contract awards was providing substantial job opportunities for the local community along the length of the upgrade.

“The Woolgoolga to Ballina section alone will support 2,500 direct jobs and 7,500 indirect jobs in the broader workforce at peak construction, including subcontractors, suppliers and service industries, providing a considerable boost to the entire north coast economy,” Mr Hogan said.

NSW Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis said there would also be further job opportunities coming as contracts were awarded for main civil construction work.

“Lend Lease Pty Limited will be building the main civil work for two lanes in each direction north of the existing Richmond River Bridge including the Whytes Lane overpass, earthworks and drainage,” Mr Gulaptis said.

For more information about the project and to keep up to date, visit [http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/northern-nsw/woolgoolga-to-ballina/index.html](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/northern-nsw/woolgoolga-to-ballina/index.html). The upgrade is due to open by 2020 and is being funded by the Australian and NSW governments on an 80:20 basis.