Media Release

5 May 2011

Temporary Bridge Avoids Thousands of Trucks Passing Through Town

A temporary bridge over the Myall River has alleviated the need for around 8,500 truck movements on Bulahdelah’s local roads since it was erected in late January.

Mr Bromhead said the Smith Bridge, located in the Pacific Highway Bulahdelah upgrade site, allows roadwork equipment and material to be transported to and from the project without travelling through the town centre.

“The project requires around 90 truck movements per hour and by installing the Smith Bridge, we’ve diverted those trucks and prevented them travelling past people’s front doors,” Mr Bromhead said.

“This means a reduction in noise, dirt and dust for Bulahdelah residents while the important upgrade work is being carried out.

“Around 270,000 cubic metres of earth will be transported to the southern side of the Myall River during the project. So far more than 103,000 cubic metres of material has been transported over the bridge.

“The bridge has allowed work to continue as planned, while reducing the impact of the work on the people of Bulahdelah,” Mr Bromhead said.

The Smith Bridge was recently used to take down the original Tourle Street bridge near Newcastle before being transported to Bulahdelah for this project.

The bridge is about 156 metres long and 10 metres wide and allows for boats to pass underneath, with a six metre clearance above the Myall River.

“The temporary bridge took around six weeks to erect and will take about three weeks to dismantle; it will be in place for around six months during the earthwork phase of the project,” Mr Bromhead said.

When completed the Bulahdelah upgrade will deliver important safety benefits by providing motorists with 8.6 kilometres of four lane divided highway to the east of Bulahdelah, replacing the single carriageway currently through the township. It will improve safety and cut travel times for motorists using the road.

Mr Bromhead said, more information about the project can be found at the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific.