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UPGRADE ENGINEER TO JUDGE SCHOOL COMPETITION

A project manager for the Banora Point Pacific Highway upgrade is trading in his hard hat for a score card to judge an engineering competition for students from the five Tweed high schools.

Andrew Deck will judge the Engineering Enrichment Challenge, which gives students an opportunity to put their engineering and design skills to the test by building a bridge using only thin strips of plywood, string and glue to span 40 centimetres.

“The competition is a great way for students to take what they’ve learned in the classroom, add their natural engineering skills, and challenge themselves to solve a real life engineering problem,” said Mr Deck, who is in charge of building the nine bridges along the 2.5 kilometre length of the upgrade.

State Member for Tweed, Geoff Provest, said he was pleased the Banora Point upgrade team could lend their skills to encourage local young people to consider a career in engineering.

“The aim of the competition is to develop an interest in engineering in the students and hopefully encourage some of them to become engineers themselves,” Mr Provest said.

“The RTA is involved in a number of programs to encourage and develop young engineers, including sponsoring high school and university competitions across NSW and offering scholarships, cadetships and graduate recruitment programs.

“There are more than 25 engineers working on the Banora Point upgrade alone, so RTA projects offer plenty of opportunities for engineers in regional NSW,” Mr Provest said.

Mr Deck will judge the Engineering Enrichment Challenge at Kingscliff High School on Tuesday 28 June 2011 at 9am.

Mr Provest has advised that information about engineering careers with the RTA is available online at www.rta.nsw.gov.au/careers.

For information about the Banora Point Pacific Highway upgrade visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au/pacific, call the project’s toll-free information line on 1800 012 611 or visit the community information centre at the eastern roundabout on Darlington Link Road from Monday to Friday between 7.30am and 5pm.

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