

Ongoing out of hours work for precast yard

The NSW Government is funding the new \$240 million Grafton bridge. As part of the project, concrete bridge segments are being made at a temporary pre-cast concrete facility in the industrial area at Through Street, South Grafton.

The project team has been working outside of normal construction hours since February 2018 to increase the number of segments it can complete each week. A total of 176 segments are required for the new bridge.

From **Monday, 6 August, until mid-2019**, the project team will continue to work extended hours so we can build up to six segments each week, weather permitting. The out of hours work will involve:

- Site preparation work between 6am and 7am weekdays and 8am to 9am on Saturdays including setting up equipment and machinery
- Pouring concrete between 7am and 9pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays
- Concrete finishing and site shut down activities between 8pm and 10pm which will include screeding, concrete curing and general tidying up.

The work has been planned so the noisier activities of pumping and vibrating concrete and using cranes, compressors and power tools will be completed by 8pm.

The extended working hours will allow the team to speed up the rate of production of bridge segments which could reduce the overall duration of construction and broader impacts on the community.

When in full production, the casting yard is expected to pour up to two segments a day.

The finished segments are 16 metres wide and 2.4 metres long. They vary in weight from about 61 to 75 tonnes and in height from three metres to 4.5 metres. They will be stored at the temporary pre-cast facility until the bridge piers are completed. As the piers are finished the segments will be installed over the Clarence River.

How are they made?

The segments are made using two reusable moulds which are about 18 metres wide, three metres long and six metres high. The moulds are fixed to a concrete slab in the pre-cast facility. After a pour, the moulds are stripped of any concrete, cleaned and oiled, and reassembled. The pre-prepared steel reinforcement cages are then placed in the mould and closed in preparation for the next concrete pour. The

preparation work for the concrete pour takes about 11 hours. The machinery used to carry out this work includes:

- cranes
- compressors
- power tools
- light vehicles.

Concrete pours take about five hours and include the following machinery:

- concrete pump
- service crane
- concrete agitators
- trucks
- pumps
- vibration equipment
- light vehicles.

How will the work impact me?

The location of the pre-cast facility in an industrial area minimises impacts on the community. There will, however, be some impacts associated with the concrete pours. We will mitigate these by:

- fitting machines with reversing 'squawkers' rather than 'beepers'
- turning machines off when not in use
- changing concrete vibrator tips to rubber-sheathed ones
- planning activities to minimise noise from reversing vehicles
- parking trucks away from residential areas
- monitoring noise.

Contact us

If you would like to make an enquiry or complaint, or to register your general feedback, please contact the Community Relations Team on 1800 918 759. Alternatively, email grafftonbridgecommunity@fultonhogan.com.au, write to PO Box 546 Grafton, NSW 2460 or visit the Community Display Centre at the corner of Duke and Pound streets, Grafton. For more information on this project, visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au/grafftonbridge.



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