The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has commenced construction on a six kilometre upgrade of the Oxley Highway between Wrights Road and the Pacific Highway at Port Macquarie. The project is due to be completed by the end of 2011, weather permitting. The NSW Government is funding this $158 million project.

Background
The contract for constructing the Oxley Highway upgrade was awarded to BMD Constructions in November 2009. Construction work is now underway.

The six kilometre upgrade will provide dual lane divided road between Wrights Road and the Pacific Highway, west of Port Macquarie.

A site surveillance team and a soil conservationist have been appointed to oversee construction activities. A site office and compound at Lindfield Park Road has been established.

All land required for the project has been acquired and utility adjustments completed.

Project benefits
The upgrade will provide significant benefits including:

- Improved road safety for motorists using the new alignment.
- Reduced travel times for motorists for motorists travelling from Wauchope and surrounding areas into Port Macquarie.
- Reduced traffic and noise for residents along the existing highway.
- Extensive landscaping and urban design initiatives including gateway landscaping at both ends of the project.

Minimising impacts on traffic during construction
The roundabout at Wrights Road and the crossover bridge near Phillip Charley Drive were completed in late 2009 to minimise disruptions to general traffic during construction.

The Wrights Road roundabout allows safer and quicker construction traffic access to the work site.
The completed crossover bridge near Phillip Charley Drive will allow earthmoving equipment and construction vehicles to cross over existing highway.

**Current works**
Works have started at the eastern end of the upgrade between Wrights Road and the crossover bridge including:
- Clearing vegetation at selected areas.
- Installing sedimentation and other environmental controls.
- Placing clean rock material into the low lying area to build it up in preparation for constructing the road.
- Constructing four box culverts.

**Upcoming works**
Work will also start soon in the western section between the crossover bridge and the Pacific Highway. This will include:
- Salvaging Aboriginal artefacts.
- Stripping topsoil.
- Removing soil from the western section to use at the eastern section.

**Look out for construction traffic**
Motorists need to be aware of construction vehicles entering at various points along the existing highway at intermittent times. These points include:
- Wrights Road roundabout.
- Lindfield Park Road.
- The crossover bridge.
- Phillip Charley Drive.
Motorists are asked to obey all traffic control measures throughout the project.

**Protecting the environment**
Whilst work is commencing in the eastern section the contractor will also be constructing two box culverts in the western section. These culverts will act as fauna underpasses.

Fauna surveys were carried out before clearing along the new alignment to minimise impacts on native animals.

You are invited to an upcoming community information session on Wednesday 17 February 2010 at Port Macquarie Panthers Club from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Please register for the evening by contacting (toll free) 1800 784 339 to ensure we cater and set up the venue appropriately.

Community information sessions will be held every four to six months to give local residents an opportunity to learn more about the project and discuss any issues with the project team.

Regular information updates will also be available from www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

### Contact details for any construction matters
Please contact the project team if you have any enquiries or complaints by:

**Phone (toll free) on 1800 784 339**

**Post to PO Box 189, Port Macquarie NSW 2444**

**Email: grafton_regional_office@rta.nsw.gov.au**