

## Bridge segment construction continues for the new Grafton bridge project

The NSW Government is funding the new \$240 million Grafton bridge. As part of the project, a temporary pre-cast concrete facility has been established in the industrial area at Through Street, South Grafton. The facility is making the concrete segments which will be used to build the new bridge.

We have been working extended hours at the concrete casting yard in the South Grafton industrial area since February to build concrete segments for the new Grafton bridge. A total of 176 segments are required for the new bridge.

From **Monday, 7 May, for around 3 months**, we will be further extending our work hours during the week and working on Saturdays so we can build up to six segments each week, weather permitting.

Pouring concrete for the bridge segments will start at **6am** and will be completed by **10pm Monday to Friday** and on **Saturdays from 8am to 6pm**.

The work between 6am and 7am will include site preparation work, while the work between 8pm and 10pm will include finishing the concrete with screeds, wet curing and tidying up. This work is not expected to generate much noise, and we anticipate minimal impacts for nearby residents. 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 provide flexibility to the workers at the casting yard to pour as many segments as possible in a working week. This 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.

Normal construction hours for the project are 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

In July this work program will be reassessed and a new program may be developed, which may include overnight work. We will talk to nearby residents before any work starts.

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. Once 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 will include:

- cranes
- compressors
- power tools
- light vehicles.

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

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

We source our concrete from a local supplier in the South Grafton industrial area.

## 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:

- erecting temporary fences with acoustic mats around various noise sources if necessary
- 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.

If you have any questions or complaints during this time please contact our project team any time on 1800 918 759.

The project team appreciates your patience and understanding during this work and apologises for any inconvenience it may cause.

## 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 you can email

[griftonbridgecommunity@fultonhogan.com.au](mailto:griftonbridgecommunity@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/griftonbridge](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/griftonbridge).



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