



Mitchell Highway safety upgrade

Bathurst to Orange

Frequently Asked Questions

What is controlled blasting?

Transport for NSW will carry out controlled low impact blasting using explosives to break up hard rock that is unable to be broken up efficiently by machinery. The sudden release of energy from these explosions loosens and breaks the hard rock into smaller, more manageable pieces. Machinery is then used to remove the smaller pieces and process it into material that can be re-used throughout the project.

Where is controlled blasting required?

During the planning stages of the Guyong project along the Mitchell Highway between Bathurst and Orange, site (geotechnical) investigations identified locations where rock blasting would be required.

Low impact controlled blasting will be used to break through hard rock along the Mitchell Highway at Guyong as part of the \$50 million Safer Roads program.

The controlled blasting will be carried out at two locations, between the intersection of the Mitchell Highway and Byng Road and east to the entrance of the Hanson Quarry to remove around 3,000 cubic metres of rock. Blasting may also be required in other areas if rock is harder than expected.

When is controlled blasting likely to start?

Work is expected to start from Wednesday 27 January, weather permitting. A siren will sound prior to works commencing to notify nearby residents.

Work will also include using a drilling rig to drill small boreholes where the low impact explosives will be placed. Work is expected to be completed in four weeks, weather permitting.

How many controlled blasts will occur?

There will be around 50 blasts at two locations during this time. It is expected that there will be two blasts per day at each location, weather permitting.

What to expect during each controlled blast?

Transport for NSW will notify residents before each controlled blast and electronic message signs will advise motorists in advance of blasting dates and times. Exclusion zones will be in place during each controlled blast, including some sections of the Mitchell Highway, at Guyong. To ensure the safety of road users travelling on these roads, traffic will be stopped for each blast and delays of up to five minutes may be experienced. Motorists are advised to plan their journey and allow additional travel time.

How do we manage and monitor the impacts of controlled blasting?

The project is subject to strict environmental controls, including managing noise and vibration. Significant blast design and modelling work has been carried out. These studies considered the location of blasts, ground conditions and the nearby residents.

An exclusion zone will be in place around the worksite and be enforced by traffic management teams as well as safety spotters. There will be minimal noise and vibration effects outside the exclusion areas.

Monitors will be put in place to record and analyse the data to refine the blast design where necessary.

How do we minimise blasting impacts?

Transport for NSW guidelines require that all people, vehicles and livestock are at a safe distance from the blast area. To ensure this happens for each blast, mitigation measures may include:

- Stopping traffic on the Mitchell Highway at Guyong for up to fifteen minutes. This will be coordinated to ensure it has a minimal impact on motorists and the local community. Emergency access will be maintained during any road closures.
- Temporarily closing affected property accesses. The project team will coordinate with these residents in advance.

Pet and animal care during low impact blasting?

As a precautionary measure only, it is advisable to keep smaller pets inside the house or shed during controlled blasting for their safety and well-being. Animals in paddocks should be checked before and after blasting. The project team will visit nearby residents to provide additional guidance on this matter on a case by case basis.

What should I do if I think my house has been damaged?

Before work started, the project team carried out building condition assessments on dwellings that are close to the controlled blasting locations. Copies of these reports have been provided to those property owners.

In the event any damage is caused to your property during the controlled blasting process, please contact Transport for NSW on 1800 167 499 (toll free). The project team will organise to have your property inspected.

Transport for NSW will rectify any damage found to have been caused by the controlled blasting work.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any questions or would like more information on the project, please contact our project team or visit our project website:

Website: nswroad.work/countryroads

Phone: 1800 167 499

Email: western.projects@transport.nsw.gov.au



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call 1800 167 499