



**The Hon Catherine King MP**  
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Local  
Government



**The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP**  
Minister for Roads and Minister for  
Regional Transport

**The Hon Janelle Saffin MP**  
Minister for the North Coast, Minister for  
Recovery and Minister for Small Business

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **TUNNELLING COMPLETE ON COFFS BYPASS AS PROJECT STEAMS AHEAD**

With tunnelling now complete on the Coffs Harbour Bypass, another major milestone has been reached on the \$2.2 billion project delivered by the Albanese and Minns Labor Governments. Blasting crews have completed the 160-metre Roberts Hill tunnel, the third and final tunnel on the transformational project. It joins the 320-metre Shephards Lane tunnel and the 410-metre Gatelys Road tunnel. The massive excavation effort saw half a million tonnes of rock removed using 280 tonnes of explosives across 570 controlled blasts.

With all three tunnels now broken through, work will shift to preparing them for traffic. This includes installing drainage systems and laying road pavement.

Before the first cars drive through in late 2026, each tunnel will be fitted with sophisticated mechanical, electrical, fire, safety and electronic signage.

Each tunnel will contain two traffic lanes plus a bicycle lane, with tunnel portals that blend seamlessly into the surrounding landscape.

When complete, the bypass will allow motorists on the Pacific Highway to skip up to 12 sets of traffic lights, cutting 12 minutes off travel times, and will remove thousands of vehicles and trucks from Coffs Harbour's CBD streets.

This project has seen over 600 direct jobs created during construction, as well as more than 12,000 indirect jobs.

The Australian Government has committed \$1.76 billion and the NSW Government \$440 million to this \$2.2 billion project.

Progress updates: [nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/projects/coffs-harbour-bypass](https://nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/projects/coffs-harbour-bypass)

#### **Quotes attributable to Federal Infrastructure Minister Catherine King:**

"This is a massive milestone reached in the Coffs Harbour Bypass, this project will transform this local area and help remove thousands of cars and heavy vehicles from CBD streets.

"When we were last in Government, then Infrastructure Minister Anthony Albanese oversaw the construction of the Kempsey bypass and key road upgrades. It is fantastic to now see this project near completion.

"This project has been a long-time coming, but it is making good progress and will transform Coffs Harbour once complete.

#### **Quotes attributable to NSW Roads Minister Jenny Aitchison:**

"The Coffs Harbour Bypass project has strong support from the Minns Labor Government and it's exciting to see it getting closer, as I did on my recent visit to the site.

"There are already cars driving on new parts of road around the city and there are more sections opening every month.

"We remind motorists to drive carefully around roadworks and be patient as the team works hard to deliver this transformational project for the city, and for everyone driving along the Pacific Highway."

#### **Quotes attributable to NSW Minister for the North Coast Janelle Saffin:**

"The breakthrough at Roberts Hill is yet another magnificent milestone for the hundreds of workers delivering the project, and for the people of Coffs Harbour who are looking forward to seeing it complete.

"As a long-time resident of the NSW North Coast region, I know what a difference this will make to those who call it home.

"I look forward to driving through each of these tunnels once the bypass is open."

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