

Byron Bay Bypass



The Byron Bay Bypass is a major infrastructure project that has been in the planning for over 30 years. It is now fully funded by the NSW Government (\$20 million including funding from Growing Local Economies) and \$4 million from Byron Shire Council.

Byron Shire Council awarded the contract for the construction of the Byron Bay bypass. The decision was made to award the \$14 million contract for the project to **Hazell Bros.**

The total cost of the bypass is \$24 million which is funded via \$10.5 million from the RMS, a \$9.5 million NSW Government Growing Local Economies grant and \$4 million from Council.

The bypass is a vital piece of infrastructure for the town of Byron Bay and, when finished, will give locals a better option to get around town.

One of the primary objectives of the Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan is to make the town centre more pedestrian friendly – reclaiming it for people and this bypass is a major step towards that.

“On average there are 20,000 cars a day on Ewingsdale Road, many of them going in and out of Byron Bay.

The council recognise that the bypass will not solve all of Byron Bay’s traffic problems, especially on Ewingsdale Road, but it will take traffic out of the CBD and allow tradies, residents and people who might just want to drop their kids at school or pick them up, to be able to do that without going through congested town streets.

The bypass will take up to 18 months to complete and it’s anticipated it will be open in December 2020.

The Bypass Will:

- improve connectivity and traffic flow between the north and south of Byron Bay
- provide an alternative route that avoids the town centre
- reduce the number of cars in the town centre daily by an estimated 30 percent
- prioritise pedestrians over cars in the town centre (a

desire strong expressed by our community throughout our Masterplan process).

The Bypass has been approved following a rigorous environmental and planning process. Find out more about the approvals in place at the link below.

How is the Bypass Being Funded?

The Byron Bay Bypass is proudly funded by the NSW State Government, including a \$9.5 million Growing Local Economies grant and \$10.5 million approved by the State Government in 2014.



A \$4 million contribution is being made by Byron Shire Council. The total project value is \$24 million.

Why Does Byron Bay Need a Bypass?

Byron Bay is essentially a small town but its popularity as a tourist destination, employment centre and place of residence in recent years has seen a significant increase in traffic. Over 20,000 vehicles a day travel along Ewingsdale Road, the main entrance to Byron Bay.

In 2017 there were 2.1 million visitors to the Byron Shire with the majority of them visiting Byron Bay. 1.1 million of those visitors were day trippers.

The existing road network within the township of Byron Bay has little to no spare capacity and is restricted by the rail line, which runs parallel to Jonson Street. All through-traffic is forced to travel via the Byron Bay town centre over the single rail crossing on Lawson Street. The infrastructure of Lawson and Jonson Streets can't support the current and future traffic volumes, with heavy congestion experienced during peak periods. Heavy pedestrian and cyclist traffic and crossing of the road network also contributes to congestion issues.

One of the main things to come out of the Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan, which was completed in 2016, was the community's desire to get cars out of the CBD and make it more pedestrian-friendly. The Byron Bay Bypass will take traffic out of the town centre by providing an alternative route for people wanting to avoid the CBD.

What are the Project Objectives

The objectives of the town centre bypass are to:

- improve traffic efficiency on the road network within Byron Bay particularly at the Lawson and Jonson Street roundabouts
- support future growth associated with predicted land use changes in the Byron Shire
- maximise road safety benefits by improving pedestrian connectivity and reducing conflicts
- enhance in-town amenity

What are the Benefits of the Byron Bay Bypass?

The bypass will improve connectivity and traffic flow between the north and south of Byron Bay. It will provide an alternative route for traffic that avoids the town centre. It is estimated it will reduce the number of cars in town on any given day by 30 percent.

The project supports the desires express by the Byron community during the town Masterplan process, which was clearly that Byron should prioritise pedestrians over cars in the town centre.

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