



Star Ratings for the AusLink National Network in New South Wales



Brunswick Heads to Yelgun, Pacific Highway:

A CASE STUDY IN ROAD SAFETY



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Brunswick Heads to Yelgun Upgrade

In July 2007, the Federal and New South Wales Governments officially finished upgrading the 9km section of the Pacific Highway between Brunswick Heads and Yelgun in northern NSW. The upgrade included:

- Duplication of the existing Brunswick Heads Bypass
- Construction of new dual carriageway from north of the Brunswick Heads bypass to Yelgun
- Five local road overpasses and grade separated interchanges at Brunswick Heads and Yelgun
- Shared pedestrian/bicycle paths, including a timber boardwalk along the southern foreshore

The Federal and NSW Governments contributed equally to the \$256 million cost of this project, which is part of an ongoing program of improvements to the Pacific Highway.

The completion of this project finalises the 'missing link' of the 60km of four lane highway from the Queensland border to the Byron Bay turnoff at Ewingsdale.

From 2 stars to 4 stars

AusRAP star ratings show that as a result of the upgrade, the journey between Brunswick Heads and Yelgun is likely to be much safer than it was in the past.

AusRAP star ratings involve an assessment of design elements which are known to have an impact on the likelihood of a crash and its severity, such as lane and shoulder width, whether or not the road is divided, and the presence of safety barriers. Between 1 and 5 stars are awarded to roads depending on the level of safety which is 'built-in' to the road.

Before the upgrade, this section of road:

- Was undivided, meaning head-on crashes were possible
- Had severe roadside conditions, so that if a vehicle ran off the road, it was likely to hit an unforgiving solid object
- Had many intersections, where brutal side impact crashes were a risk.

As a result, it rated just 2 stars for safety.

Now, the road is divided, has wide lanes, overpass intersections and has much improved roadsides. It is now rated 4 stars for safety.

★★ Before upgrade ★★★★★ After upgrade



	Star rating	Divided	Good alignment	Safe roadside	Intersections
Before upgrade	★★	0%	75%	0%	1 every 1km
After upgrade (northbound)	★★★★	100%	100%	43%	1 every 2km
After upgrade (southbound)	★★★★	100%	100%	87%	1 every 5km