

Fact Sheet – Piling for bridge works

Southport-Burleigh Road network improvement program Northern section – North Street to Vespa Crescent

May 2016

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is upgrading a 5km section of Southport-Burleigh Road (High Street, Ferry Road and Bundall Road) between North Street, Southport and Vespa Crescent, Bundall.

Bridge widening works

TMR's contractor - BMD Constructions – is upgrading two bridges.

- Korong Channel Bridge – near Korong Street and The Southport School, Southport. Widening on the eastern side to accommodate a new traffic lane and footpath. Expected completion in mid-2016.
- Benowa Canal Bridge, Bundall – near The Arts Centre Gold Coast. Widening on both sides and construction of a new footbridge on the eastern side. Expected completion in early 2017.

The widening of these bridges will rely on piles (concrete columns) to form the bridges' solid foundation for the structure.

What is piling?

Piles create a strong foundation to support a structure by connecting to a strong layer of soil or rock. Piles are commonly used when the soil closer to the surface does not have the strength to support a structure.

The method used to install the piles depends on factors such as soil type and the size of the load each pile must bear.

Types of piling

'Bored' piles have been constructed at Korong Channel Bridge while 'driven' piles will be installed at Benowa Canal Bridge.

Bored piles is the installation of a permanent steel liner into the ground. This liner is the same shape as the finished pile and once in place, the earth and rock inside the liner is excavated

using a piling rig to create a circular hole. A steel reinforced cage is then lowered into the hole and concrete is poured to create the pile.

This method generally creates less noise during construction.

Driven piles involves producing pre-cast piles off-site. The piles are brought to site on large semi-trailers and lifted into place with a crane. The piling rig drives each pile into the ground to a pre-determined depth.

This method of piling is generally noisier with a constant banging sound as the piles are driven into place.

What are the impacts from piling?

Piling can create increased levels of construction noise and vibration. For this reason, most piling on BMD's Southport-Burleigh Road northern section works will be completed during the day from 6am to 6pm Monday to Saturday.

Should lane closures be required, the works will occur at night when traffic flows are at their lowest.

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Phone: 1800 227 561* – select option 1

Email: SouthportBurleighRoadNorth@bmd.com.au

For general project information visit the Department of Transport and Main Roads website and search for Southport-Burleigh Road.

Web: www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects

*Standard call charges may apply.