

# Community Update



DECEMBER 2013

NO. 2

## M1-M2

As 2013 draws to a close we would like to thank you for your ongoing involvement in the M1-M2 project. This community update includes a summary of the community involvement and field investigation work this year and explains the next steps for the project.

### About the M1-M2 project

Roads and Maritime Services, Transurban and Westlink M7 shareholders are proposing to construct and operate a tolled motorway linking the M1 Pacific Motorway (formerly the F3 Freeway) at Wahroonga to the Hills M2 Motorway at West Pennant Hills.

It is the missing link completing Sydney's orbital motorway network outlined in the NSW Government's NSW State Infrastructure Strategy and Long Term Transport Master Plan.

### Funding

- Construction budget has been estimated at up to \$2.65 billion
- The majority of the cost will be funded by the Transurban and the Westlink M7 shareholders
- The Australian and NSW Governments are contributing up to \$405 million each.

### Key features

- Twin motorway tunnels around 8 kms in length with a minimum posted speed of 80 km/h
- There will be two lanes and a breakdown lane. It will be built as a three lane tunnel in each direction to provide long term capacity
- The clearance will be higher than other tunnels to reduce the risk of impact from overheight vehicles
- There will be an interchange at each end with all existing on/off ramps being maintained:
  1. A northern interchange connecting with the M1 Motorway, the Pacific Highway and Pennant Hills Road
  2. A southern interchange connecting with the Hills M2 Motorway and Pennant Hills Road

- Minimum gradients in the tunnel will enable trucks to maintain speed
- The tunnel will supplement Pennant Hills Road by adding another four lanes of capacity. There will be no change to the configuration or capacity of Pennant Hills Road.

### Benefits

- Deliver a 10-15 minute travel time saving during peak hour
- Reduce truck movements along Pennant Hills Road
- Bypass 22 sets of traffic lights east and westbound along Pennant Hills Road, providing more reliable and safer travel conditions
- Improve air quality, reduce traffic noise and traffic congestion along Pennant Hills Road
- Create opportunities for improving public transport.

### M1-M2 Project

[www.rms.nsw.gov.au/m1tom2](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/m1tom2)

Project information line: 1800 997 057 (free call)

Email: [m1-m2enquiries@transurban.com](mailto:m1-m2enquiries@transurban.com)

The F3 Freeway has recently been renamed the M1 Pacific Motorway.



## Community involvement

Four community events were held during October and November 2013 to introduce the project to the community and seek feedback. More than 300 people attended. The agenda for each event aimed to provide a two way information flow, which included project team introductions, project background and update and a one-on-one discussion forum.

Written feedback was received from community members and comments from many residents were recorded and collected by the project team during the events. This information will assist the project team in selecting a preferred design.

An issues summary report, providing a summary of the community feedback has been published online. To download a copy of this report, please go to the project website at [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/m1tom2](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/m1tom2).

The project team would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the community events. If you were unable to attend but would like to provide comments, please call the project information line 1800 997 057 or email [m1-m2enquiries@transurban.com](mailto:m1-m2enquiries@transurban.com).

## Early field investigations

Environmental field investigations have been and are being carried out to identify environmental characteristics of the project corridor to be taken into consideration during the tender assessment, selection of the preferred design and the preparations of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Recent and future studies include:

**Air quality assessments** of existing air quality in the project corridor, specifically along Pennant Hills Road where traffic congestion is experienced.

Air monitoring stations are being installed at Rainbow Farm Reserve, Carlingford; Observatory Park, Pennant Hills; Headon Sports Park, Thornleigh; Brickpit Park, Normanhurst; and James Park, Hornsby. Ongoing monitoring will continue for at least three months. These sites do not relate to design options for ventilation outlets.



**Air quality monitoring stations will be installed at five locations within the project corridor**

**Noise monitoring** of existing noise levels are being recorded at a number of locations in the project corridor. Noise measurements will inform the noise assessment as part of the EIS for the project. Locations sensitive to noise such as residences, schools, hospitals, retirement villages and aged care facilities would also be identified.

**Traffic studies** to investigate existing traffic along Pennant Hills Road, the M1 and M2 and the local road network are being surveyed. The study includes a review of potential impacts from construction vehicles. The traffic survey will inform the operation and construction traffic assessment for the project.

**Ecological and heritage** preliminary surveys along the project corridor are under way to identify potentially sensitive sites for heritage or vegetation.

## What's next for the project?

Three tenders for the design and construct of the proposed tunnel were submitted on 29 November 2013. They are now being assessed in terms of innovation, cost effectiveness and an environmentally responsible design.

The project team will continue to work with potentially affected and interested communities, businesses and stakeholders to ensure there is effective consultation and communication on all aspects of the project. Opportunities for community and stakeholder consultation will continue following the announcement of the preferred design, during the preparation and public exhibition of the EIS and the formal submissions process.

Once a preferred design has been selected, its construction and operational impacts will be considered in the EIS, which is expected to be exhibited for public comment in the first half of 2014.

The EIS will include detailed assessments on traffic, safety, noise, air quality, visual and property impacts, and will assess the performance of the proposal against project objectives and mitigating impacts. Formal submissions will be invited during the display of the EIS.

Roads and Maritime will then prepare a response to the submissions received. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure will determine whether or not to approve the project and any conditions to be applied.

## Indicative project timeline and next steps

Timing	Description
29 November 2013	Proposals submitted by tenderers.
Q1/Q2 2014	Subject to assessment, preferred tender design selected. Target date to start Environmental Impact Statement exhibition period and consultation.
September 2014	Target planning approval.
Q3/Q4 2014	Final binding offer submitted and assessed.
Early 2015	Construction starting.
Late 2019	Tunnel open.

We would like to thank you again for your involvement in the project and we wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable festive season.



If you would like further information, to register to receive project updates, or would like to provide feedback or discuss the project you can contact the project team by email [m1-m2enquiries@transurban.com](mailto:m1-m2enquiries@transurban.com) or call the project information line (free call) **1800 997 057**.



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**If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone the Community Information line on 1800 997 057. Our business hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.**

#### Arabic

إذا كنتم بحاجة إلى مترجم، الرجاء الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الخطية والشفهية (TIS National) على الرقم **131 450** والطلب منهم الاتصال بوكالتكم Community Information Line على الرقم 1800 997 057. أوقات عملنا هي 9am-5pm.

#### Cantonese

若你需要口譯員，請致電 **131 450** 聯絡翻譯和口譯服務署 (TIS National)，要求他們致電 1800 997 057 聯絡 Community Information Line。我們的工作時間是 9am – 5pm。

#### Mandarin

如果你需要口译员，请致电 **131 450** 联系翻译和口译服务署 (TIS National)，要求他们致电 1800 997 057 联系 Community Information Line。我们的工作时间是 9am – 5pm。

#### Korean

통역사가 필요하시면 번역통역서비스 (TIS National)에 **131 450** 으로 연락하여 이들에게 1800 997 057 번으로 Community Information Line 에 전화하도록 요청하십시오. 저희의 근무시간은 9am – 5pm 입니다.

#### Vietnamese

Nếu cần thông ngôn viên, xin quý vị gọi cho Dịch Vụ Thông Phiên Dịch (TIS Toàn Quốc) qua số **131 450** và nhờ họ gọi cho Community Information Line qua số 1800 997 057. Giờ làm việc của chúng tôi là 9am – 5pm.

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All personal information collected will be used solely for the purpose of providing you with information about the M1-M2 proposal and may be disclosed for this purpose. Otherwise, Roads and Maritime, or Transurban, and the Westlink M7 shareholders will not disclose your personal information without your consent unless authorised or required by law.

Roads and Maritime is subject to the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*, and to the extent that your information is held by Roads and Maritime, it will be held at 101 Miller Street, North Sydney NSW. You have the right to access and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect. Your privacy is also protected under the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)* and the National Privacy Principles set out in the Privacy Act.

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