

Media Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 October 2011

Norfolk tunnel excavation to start Saturday 5 November

A major milestone of the \$550 million Hills M2 Upgrade will occur on Saturday, 5 November with the start of major excavation to widen the Norfolk Tunnel in Epping.

“The widening of the citybound tunnel will take place most weekends until mid-2012, with work starting on the westbound tunnel to follow,” said a project spokesman.

“The Hills M2 Upgrade is a \$550 million investment to improve travel times and reduce congestion in North West Sydney. The widening of the Norfolk Tunnel is a critical step to reduce travel times on the motorway, improve their reliability and allow the return of cyclists to the motorway

“The widening of the tunnel will allow the speed limit through the westbound carriageway of the motorway to return to 100km/h following the completion of the upgrade. This will remove the 70 km/h speed limit in the westbound tunnel, established to accommodate the interim westbound widening in 2007.

“The work has been scheduled to ensure all lanes of traffic are available during weekday peaks, so excavation will take place during periods of low traffic on the weekends.

“Additional tunnel excavation work is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday nights as well as during the day on Sundays. At least one lane in both directions will be available to traffic throughout these times.

“During work hours, traffic management will be established to ensure the safety of our workers and motorists and limit delays in the work area.

“The widening work requires the team to excavate sections of the tunnel and reinforce it with bolts and shotcrete before moving on to excavate another section. These tasks cannot be completed in a single shift and requires extended periods of work in the tunnel.

“Due to the traffic management, westbound traffic delays are expected on Sundays during this essential work. We encourage motorists to plan their journey, allow extra travel time and consider using alternate routes such as Epping Road and Carlingford Road.

“Traffic controls will be in place and speed limits will be reduced in the contra-flow. Please drive carefully and follow the signs.”

Major road work will continue on weeknights, including Fridays from 8pm to 9am on Saturdays. Additional work will be undertaken from 8pm Saturdays to 5am Mondays until mid-2012. At least one lane will remain open in each direction; with citybound traffic diverted onto the westbound carriageway. Two citybound lanes and one westbound lane will be available during the day on Sunday. No lane closures will be in place during the day on Saturdays.

Access to the motorway from Herring Road and Lane Cove Road, North Ryde will not be available from 10am to 5pm on Sundays during the work period.

Hills M2 Upgrade



Further information

For more information on the Hills M2 Upgrade, visit www.hillsm2upgrade.com.au or contact 1800 196 266 or via enquiries@hillsm2upgrade.com.au.

For up to date traffic information contact the Transport Management Centre at www.livetraffic.com or 132 701.

For up to date information on bus services contact 131 500 or your bus service provider:
Hillsbus (02) 9890 0000 or Busways - (02) 9625 8900.

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