

Media Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19 December 2011

Darling Mills Creek bridge widening reaches a landmark

Construction work at Darling Mills Creek Bridge as part of the Hills M2 Upgrade has reached a milestone with installation of all the bridge girders and the recent removal of the tower crane.

“Five 30 metre concrete girders, each weighing up to 73 tonne were progressively installed by two 350 tonne cranes during November and December to provide the deck of the widened bridge”, said a project spokesman.

“Darling Mills Creek Bridge is being widened by about 3.5m on the citybound carriageway (northern side) to provide one extra eastbound lane for the 161 metre length of the bridge over the valley at Darling Mills Creek.

“The next phase of work at Darling Mills involves the pouring of concrete over the girders to create the deck needed for the additional lane, followed by the commencement of work on the road pavement and eventually the installation of new street furniture like traffic barriers and signage.

“Construction on the bridge commenced in March 2011. Early stages of the work were facilitated by a tower crane which was used to transport material and equipment to the valley floor to allow the construction of new foundations and bridge piers.

“By using the tower crane, the project team was able to reduce the clearing footprint at the Darling Mills Creek area by approximately 8500m² including saving 20 mature trees.

The tower crane was erected at Darling Mills Creek in April to minimise the environmental impacts of the bridge widening works by:

- reducing the amount of disturbance to vegetation underneath the bridge,
- reducing the amount of overall night work required to widen the bridge, and
- enabling the bulk of construction materials to be lowered into the compound from the motorway rather than being delivered on trucks through local access roads.

“The upgrade involves the lengthening or widening 10 bridges across the 14.5 kilometre work site.”

Fully electronic toll collection will commence on the Hills M2 and Eastern Distributor from 30 January. Motorists using the motorways from this date will be required to pay tolls using existing electronic tags or temporary pass products.

On-motorway cash payments will no longer be available from 30 January, so motorists without a valid payment arrangement, have up to 48 hours after their first trip to make an arrangement. Roam Express e-TAG and visitor's ePASS can be accessed from www.roamexpress.com.au or 13 76 26.

Further information regarding other tolling products can be access at www.sydneymotorways.com.

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.

The Hills M2 and Eastern Distributor will be cashless from 30 January 2012. For more information, call Roam Express 13 76 26 or visit www.roamexpress.com.au.

For up to date traffic information contact the Transport Management Centre at 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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