

## NOISE REDUCING ARCHITECTURAL TREATMENTS

### Background

The *M2 Upgrade Environmental Assessment*, May 2010 identified approximately 90 homes that may be eligible for architectural treatment(s) that are designed to reduce the levels of traffic noise from the motorway.

These homes are predicted to experience traffic noise levels that may exceed the noise criteria for the Hills M2 Upgrade within ten years of the upgrade being completed.

The Office of Environment and Heritage sets the criteria for road traffic noise in NSW in the *Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise*. You can view this information on the project website at [www.hillsm2upgrade.com.au](http://www.hillsm2upgrade.com.au). The Hills M2 Upgrade noise criteria and the future traffic noise predictions for the motorway have been made in accordance with this policy.

### What architectural treatments may be offered?

An architectural treatment is designed to reduce traffic noise levels experienced inside the home by undertaking one or all of the following treatments:

- Sealing gaps around doors and windows and sealing of vents.
- Installing ventilation such as fans, to maintain the flow of fresh air when windows and doors are closed.
- Double glazed windows.

### How will I know if my home is eligible for an architectural treatment?

Your home will have already been identified as potentially being eligible when noise investigations were undertaken for the *M2 Upgrade Environmental Assessment* in May 2010. We will first need to undertake an inspection of your home to determine if your home is eligible. The inspection will include:

- I. The location of 'habitable rooms' – only 'habitable rooms' that are situated on or next to the areas affected by traffic noise above the 'noise criteria' will be considered for architectural treatment. 'Habitable rooms' include bedrooms, living rooms and dining rooms. Rooms such as bathrooms and laundries will not be considered for architectural treatment.
- II. Considering what noise reduction measures are already in place - if your home already has noise reducing measures in place such as air-conditioning, your home may not be eligible for architectural treatment.

Please note that you do not have to have your home inspected. However, an inspection must take place before we can decide if your home is eligible for an architectural treatment. You can take up our offer of a home inspection within 12 months of the date of this letter.

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#### Hills M2 Upgrade

A team consisting of The Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW, The Hills Motorway Limited and Hills Motorway Management Limited (as trustee of the Hills Motorway Trust)

**Go to:** [www.hillsm2upgrade.com.au](http://www.hillsm2upgrade.com.au)

**Live traffic:** [www.livetrafficnsw.com.au](http://www.livetrafficnsw.com.au)

**Email:** [enquiries@hillsm2upgrade.com.au](mailto:enquiries@hillsm2upgrade.com.au)

**Call:** 1800 196 266 (select option 2)

**Post:** PO Box 379, North Ryde BC NSW 1670

## What happens during the home inspection?

A senior project engineer from the Hills M2 Upgrade team will inspect your home and prepare a plan that identifies where the habitable rooms are in relation to the motorway. Details of any existing noise reduction treatments will be recorded. This process will take between 30 and 60 minutes.

## When will you advise me if my home is eligible for treatment?

We will write to you within 4 weeks of your home being inspected. If your home is not eligible for a treatment, we will explain to you why you are not being offered an architectural treatment.

Further information will be sent to you if your property is eligible.

## What types of architectural treatments may be offered?

The table below details the architectural treatments that may be installed in eligible homes.

Treatment level – exceeds noise criteria	Type of architectural treatment	Benefit
Level 1 - Less than LAeq 5dB(A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ventilation e.g. fan.</li></ul>	Windows can be closed whilst still allowing fresh air to flow.
Level 2 - Between LAeq 5–10dB(A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ventilation e.g. fan.</li><li>• Sealing of wall vents.</li><li>• Upgrade window/door seals.</li></ul>	As above, plus sealing of wall vents and upgrading seals to minimise noise intrusion.
Level 3 - More than LAeq 10dB(A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ventilation e.g. fan.</li><li>• Sealing of wall vents.</li><li>• Upgrade window/door seals.</li><li>• Upgraded to double glazing.</li></ul>	As above, plus upgraded window glazing reduces the transfer of noise from the outside through the windows.

## Who pays for the architectural treatment?

The cost of installing an architectural treatment is covered by the Hills M2 Upgrade project team. Ongoing maintenance and operational costs will be the home owner's responsibility. Further information will be provided to owners of eligible homes.

## What happens next if my property is eligible for an architectural treatment?

You will receive a diagram or plan of the work, a summary outlining what the work includes and a Deed of Agreement (a formal agreement between you and us). Once the work is agreed to and we have received your signed Deed of Agreement, we will contact you within 10 days to organise a time that it is convenient for you to start undertaking the work.

It will be your responsibility to notify your body corporate (only applicable if you own a unit or townhouse) or your tenant (if you are leasing your home) of the work. As this work will be undertaken as part of the Hills M2 Upgrade, a development consent or approval from local councils is not required.

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## **What happens if traffic noise levels are higher than predicted once the project is completed?**

Traffic noise monitoring will be carried out at locations along the corridor one year after the upgraded motorway is opened to traffic to verify that the predicted noise levels are in line with the actual noise levels measured.

This monitoring will be conducted in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage guidelines and the report will be submitted to the Director-General of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for review and approval.

If noise levels are higher than predicted it may be necessary to undertake additional architectural assessment. You will **only** be contacted if additional architectural assessment is required.

## **Who do I contact should I have further questions?**

If you have any further questions, please contact the Hills M2 Upgrade community relations team on 1800 196 266 (select option 2) or email [enquiries@hillsm2upgrade.com](mailto:enquiries@hillsm2upgrade.com). Additional information about the Hills M2 Upgrade including the project's Environmental Assessment is available on the project website [www.hillsm2upgrade.com.au](http://www.hillsm2upgrade.com.au).

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