

M2 Upgrade



MAY/JUNE 2010



Community Update

Environmental Assessment

This community update outlines the environmental assessment for the proposal to upgrade the M2 Motorway from Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills, to Lane Cove Road, North Ryde. The environmental assessment reviews the potential environmental, economic and social benefits and impacts associated with the proposed M2 Upgrade and identifies measures to minimise these impacts.

The project has been declared critical infrastructure and is being assessed under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The environmental assessment for the proposed M2 Upgrade is on display for community comment and written submissions will be received until **Monday 21 June, 2010**.

Background

The M2 Motorway plays a key role in Sydney's Orbital network linking the north west region to the lower north shore and Sydney's CBD. It is a key road freight and commuter route and connects the major employment hubs of Macquarie Park and Norwest Business Park.

On a typical workday, the M2 is used by more than 100,000 vehicles and over 17,000 bus commuters. Construction of the Westlink M7 and Lane Cove Tunnel combined with strong commercial and residential growth in Sydney's north west has led to heavy congestion on the M2 during peak periods.

Project need

The NSW Government is working to deliver high quality, integrated and reliable transport services to continue economic development and competitiveness.

The M2 Upgrade is just one of many projects identified in the NSW Government's *Metropolitan Strategy* (reviewed March 2010) and the *Metropolitan Transport Plan – Connecting the City of Cities* (March 2010) to improve the

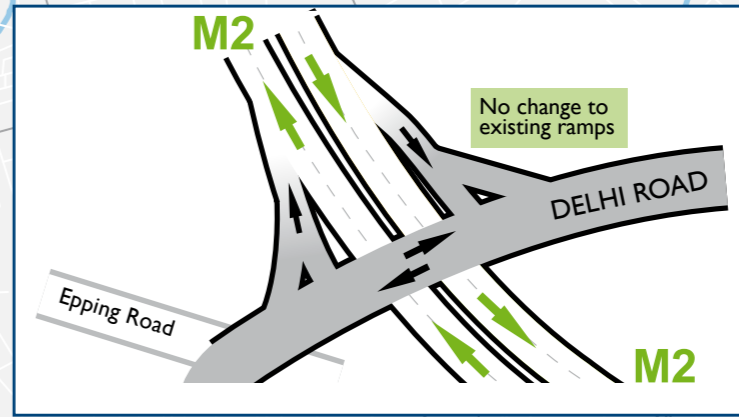
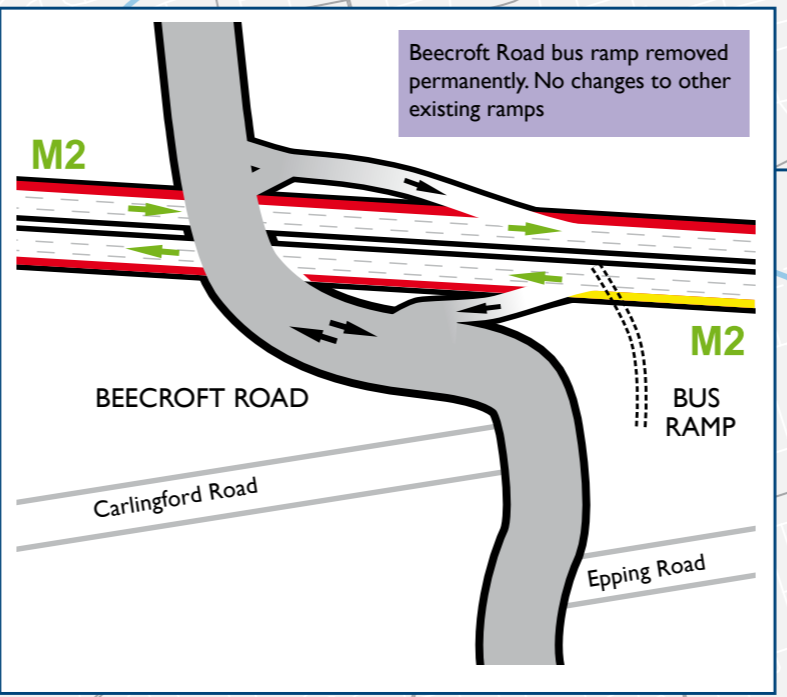
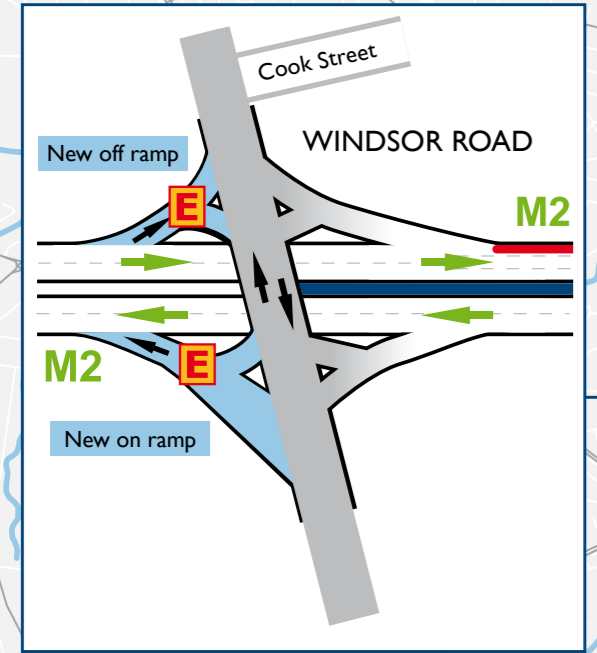
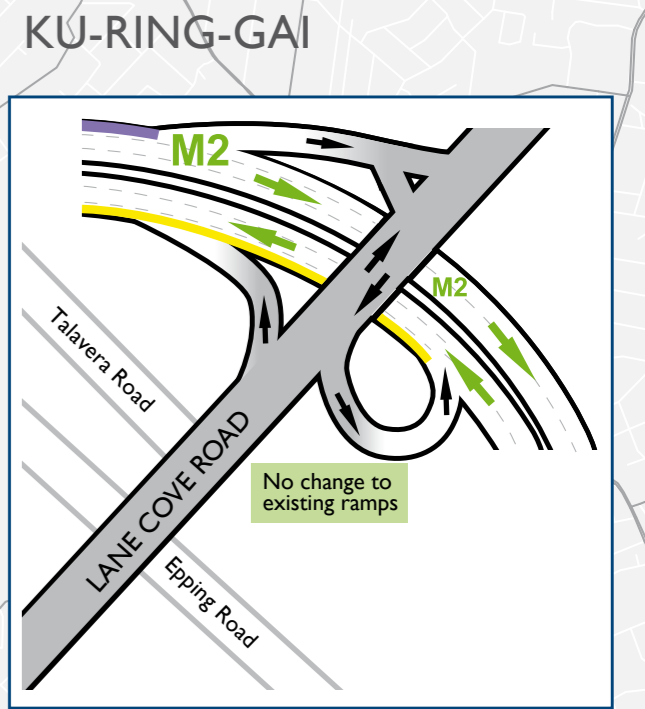
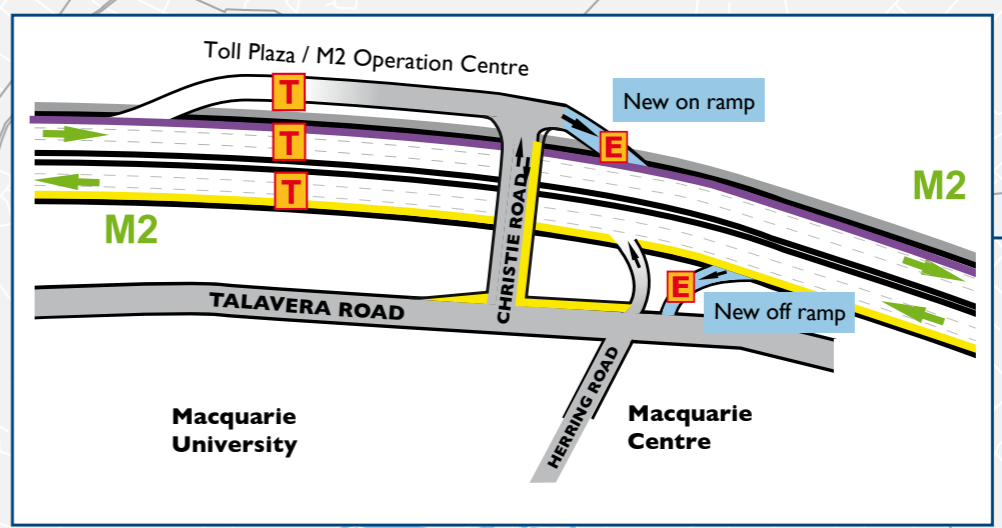
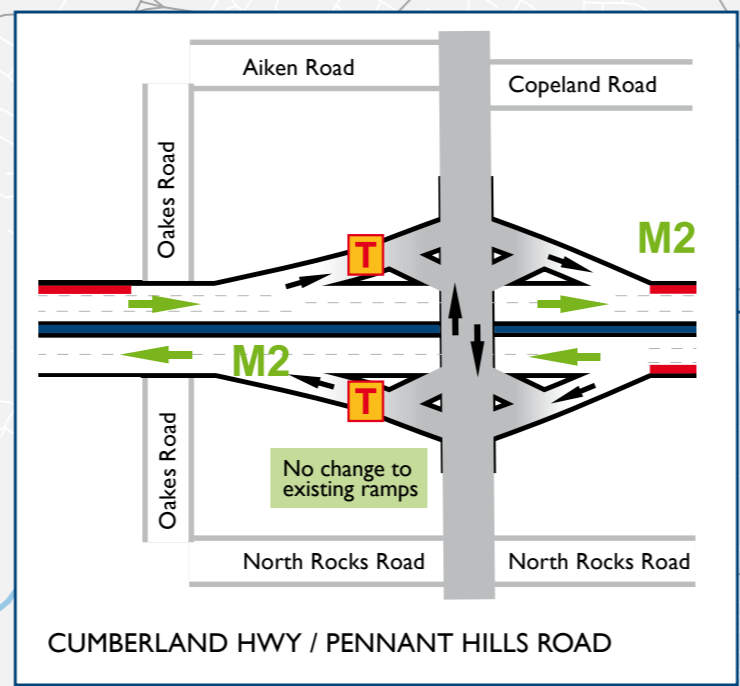
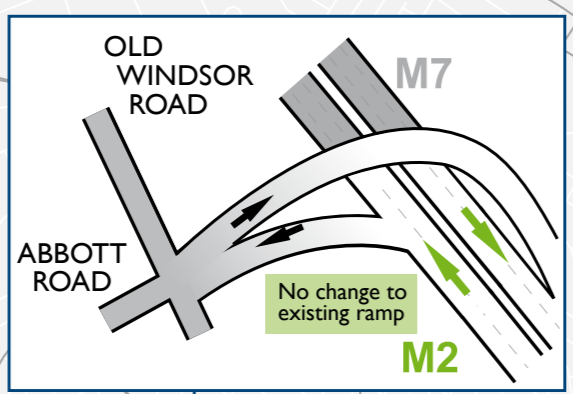
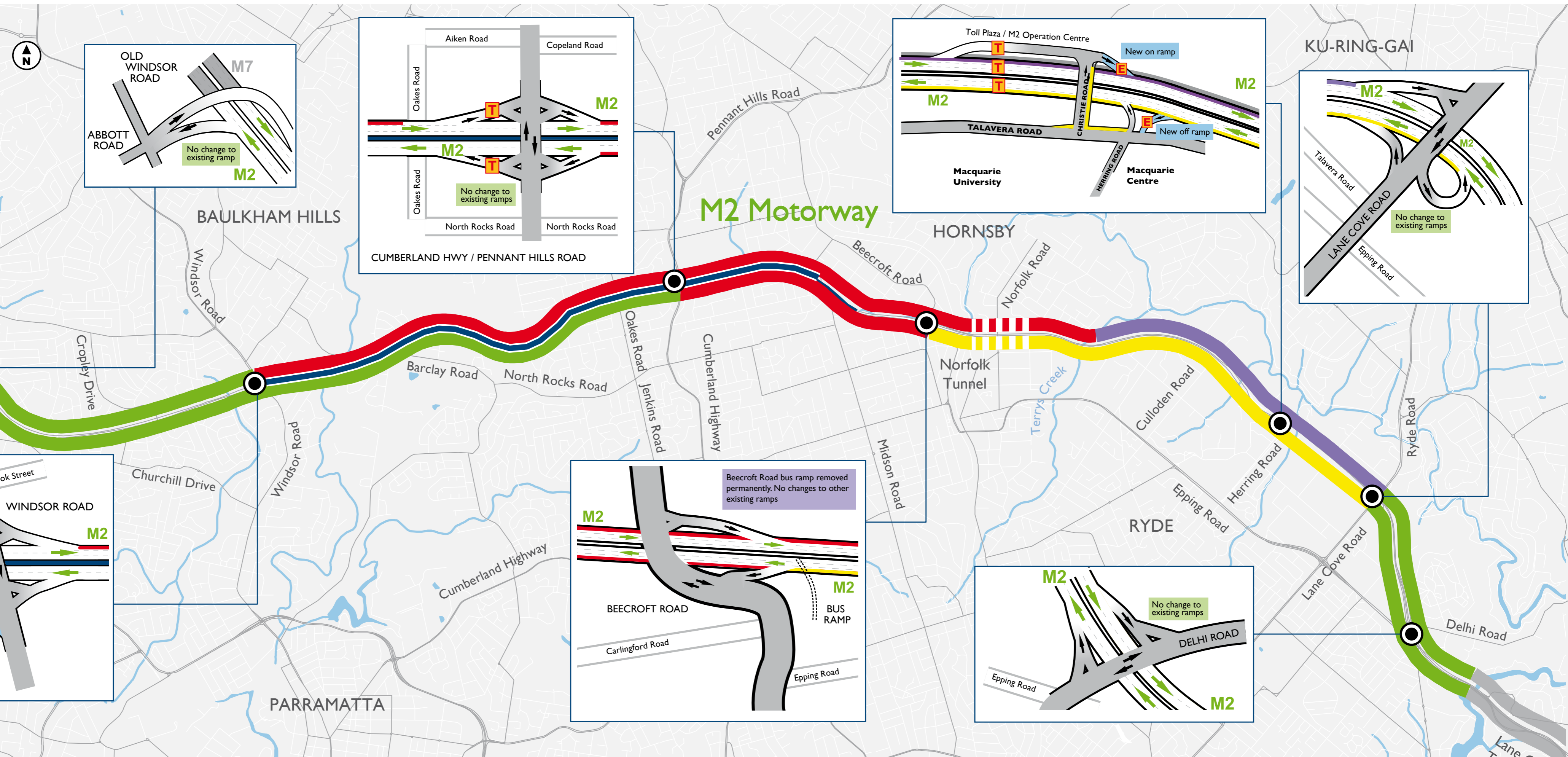
efficiency of Sydney's transport network. These projects will contribute to achieving sustainable economic, social and environmental outcomes for Sydney into the future.

The proposed upgrade would significantly reduce congestion in peak periods and improve access to major growth areas along the motorway. It would support current planning for Sydney's north west which includes 140,000 new homes and 100,000 new jobs over the next 25 years.



LEGEND

- Existing M2 Motorway
- Upgrade to three lanes
- Upgrade to three lanes with transit lane (T2)
- Upgrade lane widths
- Existing bus lane
- New ramps
- Interchange
- Toll plaza
- Toll collection
- Electronic toll collection



Upgrade features

The proposed M2 Upgrade would widen the existing motorway along 14.5 kilometres of its length. The project would deliver four new ramps to improve motorway accessibility.

Features of the upgrade would include:

- New west facing Windsor Road on and off ramps.
- Additional eastbound lane from Windsor Road to Pennant Hills Road.
- Additional eastbound lane from Pennant Hills Road, through the Norfolk Tunnel, to Lane Cove Road.
- New Christie Road eastbound on ramp.
- New Herring Road westbound off ramp.
- Widened westbound lanes from Lane Cove Road to Beecroft Road.
- Additional westbound lane from Beecroft Road to Pennant Hills Road.

Upgrade benefits

The proposed upgrade would:

- Reduce congestion during morning and afternoon peak periods.
- Provide new access points to Sydney's growing residential and business centres.
- Restore a 100km/h speed limit along the motorway from Lane Cove Road to Beecroft Road.
- Provide new entry/exit points to create opportunities for additional public transport services and facilities.
- Increase capacity to accommodate planned future residential and business growth.



Key issues for assessment

The following key areas of potential impact are discussed in detail in the environmental assessment. A summary of key issues and the proposed measures to reduce impacts, for both the construction and operation of the motorway, is provided below.

Noise

Issues

Construction

- A temporary increase in day and night time noise levels due to:
 - Vehicle movements and traffic management set-up.
 - Equipment operation.
 - Excavation and tunnelling works.
 - Construction compound activities.
- Modification and relocation of some existing noise walls inside the M2 lease boundary, to accommodate widening works and new ramps.

Operation

- Increase in noise due to increasing traffic volumes.

Mitigation measures

Construction

- Construction environmental management plans to include noise mitigation measures such as temporary noise barriers, noise monitoring programmes and time restrictions on noise intensive activities.
- Informing the community about the nature and timing of works, for example using letterbox drops.
- Relocating 22 noise walls.
- Relocating and increasing the height of one noise wall.

Operation

- Constructing two new noise walls in the Macquarie Park/North Ryde area.
- Assessing 91 properties for architectural treatment requirements, for example double glazing windows.
- Constructing a low noise road pavement.



Traffic and public transport

Issues

Construction

- Intermittent motorway lane closures at times during the day and night.
- Some temporary local road closures where new ramps are proposed.
- Cyclists will not be able to use motorway breakdown lanes during the construction period for safety reasons.

Operation

- Removing the bus ramp near Beecroft Road. Routes 611 and 740 affected.

Mitigation measures

Construction

- Advising the community of all changed traffic conditions on and around the motorway.
- Developing an alternative off motorway road cycle route, in consultation with councils and local cycle groups, for availability prior to the start of construction.
- Maintaining existing capacity of the M2 Motorway during peak periods.

Operation

- Alternative bus services will continue to provide access to both Epping and Macquarie Park.

Flora and fauna

Issues

Construction

- Protecting Sydney Blue Gum High Forest and remnant native vegetation in the vicinity of the proposal.
- Clearing approximately 21 hectares of vegetation from work areas along the motorway, including 10 hectares of native vegetation.
- Some impact to local fauna, due to clearing of vegetation and habitats.
- Temporary disruption to nocturnal species such as bats and owls.
- Impact to vegetation and creek banks under bridge widening works at Darling Mills Creek, Devlins Creek and Terrys Creek.

Mitigation measures

Construction

- Concept design avoids potential impacts to Sydney Blue Gum High Forest and remnant native vegetation.
- Avoiding mature trees and other natural features such as waterways and rock outcrops, where practicable.
- Rehabilitating three hectares of native vegetation along the motorway corridor.
- Construction environmental management plans to include mitigation measures such as weed management, rehabilitation and revegetation in areas bordering natural bushland.

Operation

- Implementing bush rehabilitation and landscaping plans including weed management and ongoing maintenance.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

Issues

- 15 known Aboriginal heritage sites in the vicinity of the project.
- Three sites directly located within the proposed construction zone.

Mitigation measures

- Implementing management plans to protect known sites.
- Implementing procedures to cease work in the immediate area should additional sites be identified.

Soil and water

Issues

- Significant excavations would take place in soil and rock.
- Impact to vegetation and creek banks under bridge widening works at Darling Mills Creek, Devlins Creek and Terrys Creek.

Mitigation measures

- Recycling excavated material at many locations.
- Increasing capacity of existing water quality basins.
- Construction environmental management plans to include mitigation measures such as revegetation, ground stabilisation and erosion controls such as silt fencing.



Visual impacts

Issues

Construction

- Physical changes to the environment caused by construction compound sites and temporary structures.
- Clearing of existing screening vegetation along the corridor.

Operation

- Physical changes to surrounding environment including visual impact of new on and off ramps and changes to retaining walls and noise walls.
- An increased road footprint compared to the existing M2 Motorway. However, proposed widening works generally remain within the M2 boundary.

Mitigation measures

Construction

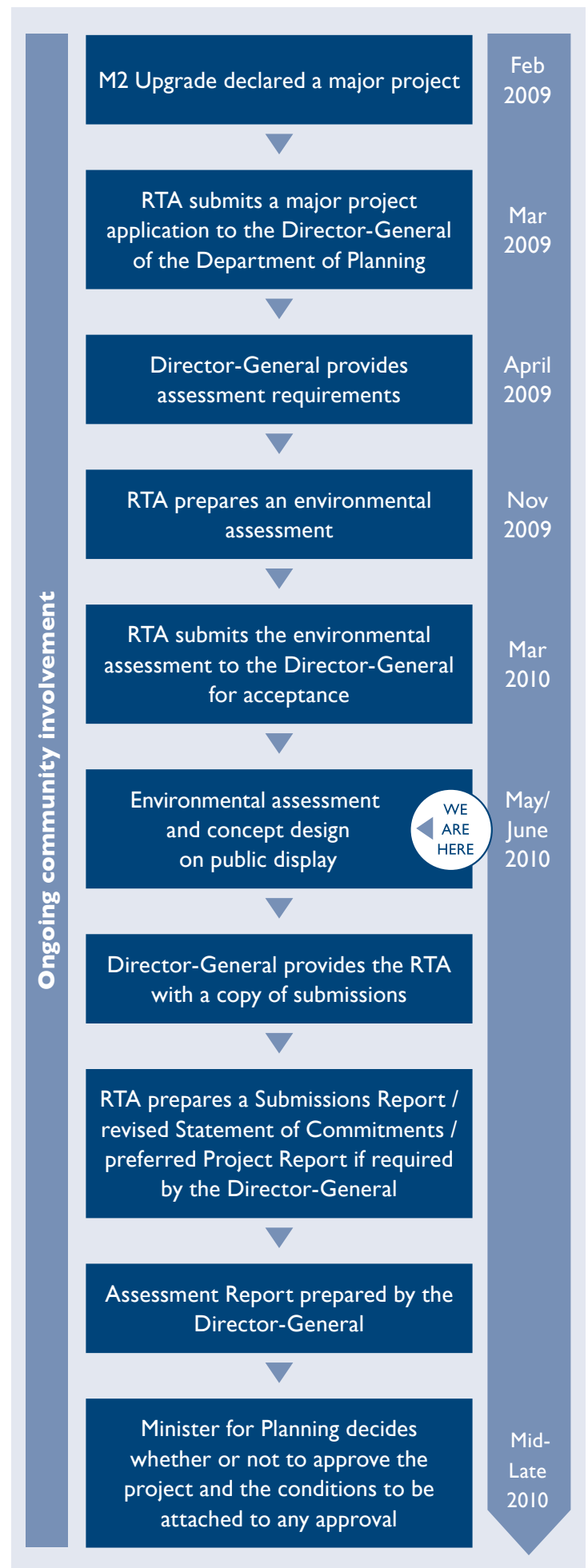
- Construction environmental management plans will include mitigation measures such as locating facilities away from waterways and implementing access, traffic and equipment noise controls.

Operation

- Matching noise wall colours and patterns as appropriate to different areas of the motorway.
- Designing rehabilitation and landscaping plans to minimise visual impacts.



The planning and decision making process



Community consultation

The M2 Upgrade Environmental Assessment will be on display until **Monday 21 June, 2010**.

Project information

The community is encouraged to view project information and speak with the M2 Upgrade project team who will be available at the shopping centre displays and community information sessions.

The M2 Upgrade environmental assessment documents are available for electronic download from:

- NSW Department of Planning website: www.planning.nsw.gov.au
- M2 Upgrade website: www.hillsm2upgrade.com.au
- RTA website: www.buildingsydneymotorways.com.au

Shopping centre displays

- **Carlingford Court**
Saturday 29 May 10am–2pm
Corner Pennant Hills and Carlingford Roads, Carlingford
- **Macquarie Centre**
Tuesday 1 June 10am–2pm
Corner Herring and Waterloo Roads, North Ryde
- **Winston Hills Mall**
Thursday 3 June 4pm–8pm
180 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills

Community information sessions

- **Epping Boys High School**
Wednesday 2 June 5pm–8pm
213 Vimiera Road, Eastwood
- **Stamford Hall, Balcombe Heights Estate**
Saturday 5 June 10am–2pm
92 Seven Hills Road, Baulkham Hills
- **North Ryde School of Arts Community Centre**
Thursday 10 June 5pm–8pm
201 Coxs Road, North Ryde

Unstaffed displays

The environmental assessment documents are available at the following locations during office hours:

- **Department of Planning**
Information Centre
23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney
- **Nature Conservation Council of NSW**
Level 2, 301 Kent Street, Sydney
- **NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (Head Office)**
Level 9, 101 Miller Street, North Sydney
- **City of Ryde Council**
1 Devlin Street, Ryde
- **Hornsby Shire Council**
Pennant Hills Library
Corner Ramsay and Yarrara Roads, Pennant Hills
- **The Hills Shire Council**
129 Showground Road, Castle Hill
- **Parramatta City Council**
Parramatta Library
1 Civic Place, Parramatta
- **Blacktown City Council**
62 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown
- **Lane Cove Council**
48 Longueville Road, Lane Cove

Have your say

Feedback and comment on the proposed M2 Upgrade environmental assessment is welcome.

You are invited to make a written submission on this proposal. This submission should include:

- Your name and address.
- Submission identification: M2 Upgrade Project – application number 09_0049.
- A statement on whether you support or object to the proposal.
- The reasons why you support or object to the proposal.

Please send your written submission by 5pm on Monday 21 June, 2010 to:

Director, Major Infrastructure Assessments
NSW Department of Planning
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
Fax: (02) 9228 6355
Email: kylie.seretis@planning.nsw.gov.au



australian
made



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For more information:

Telephone: 1800 196 266 (free call)

Post: Locked Bag 2215, North Ryde BC NSW 1670

Email: enquiries@hillsm2upgrade.com.au

www.hillsm2upgrade.com.au

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