

Murray Farm Road Bridge (also known as Kirkham Street Bridge)



Murray Farm Road Bridge, May 2011

The Murray Farm Road Bridge (also known as Kirkham Street Bridge) crosses the Hills M2 Motorway in Beecroft.

The motorway will be widened to provide one extra lane in each direction underneath Murray Farm Road Bridge. To accommodate the widening the bridge will be lengthened by around 8 metres on the northern side. A new central pier will be constructed and the existing central pier will be removed.

The bridge lengthening will involve temporary traffic changes so that construction work can be carried out safely. The project team has approval to partially close the bridge to one traffic lane during construction. Traffic flow will be controlled by traffic signals on both sides of the bridge during construction. These arrangements have been approved by the Roads and Traffic Authority in consultation with Hornsby Shire Council.

This fact sheet will be updated as further information becomes available.



**Hills M2 Upgrade
breakdown safety**

In the case of breakdown:

- Stay in your vehicle
- Switch on your hazard lights
- Call **1800 196 266**
- Wait for assistance

Questions and answers

Q: Why does Murray Farm Road Bridge need to be lengthened?

A: Murray Farm Road Bridge needs to be lengthened to accommodate the widening of the M2 Motorway by one additional lane in each direction

Q: How will the bridge be lengthened?

A: The bridge will be lengthened on the northern side in two stages.

Stage one:

- Build a new bridge abutment.
- Build a new bridge deck.
- Improvement works to existing sections of the bridge.

Stage two:

- Remove the old abutment.
- Build a new central bridge pier.
- Remove the existing central bridge pier

Q: How long will it take to lengthen Murray Farm Road Bridge and when will work begin?

A: Work on the bridge started in February 2011 and is scheduled to be completed in late 2012.

Q: Has constructing a new parallel bridge been considered?

A: Constructing a new bridge next to the existing bridge has been considered, however the realignment of the existing road would require the acquisition and demolition of at least one nearby residence.

Q: Why is a new or a pre fabricated bridge not being constructed so that the existing bridge can remain fully open during the construction period?

A: The option of constructing a new or prefabricated bridge has been explored. Installing a new or prefabricated bridge would not significantly decrease construction impacts on traffic.

Q: Are you planning to permanently close Murray Farm Road Bridge?

A: No. The bridge will be fully operational after the lengthening work is finished.

M2Upgrade project

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)

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Q: Will there be any full closures of Murray Farm Road Bridge during construction?

A: The project team is undertaking work on Murray Farm Road Bridge while keeping one traffic lane open. Some construction activities will require full closure of the bridge at night or on weekends and will be managed in accordance with approval from NSW Roads and Traffic Authority. In the event of full bridge closures, advertising, static signage and notifications advising of the date of closure will be used to notify the local community and the travelling public prior to these closures.

Q: Has the project considered a temporary full closure of the bridge over a shorter construction period?

A: The loss of access resulting from a medium-term full closure of the bridge was considered to be an unacceptable imposition on the community, particularly during peak periods. The Minister for Planning has approved the project on the condition that access is maintained on Murray Farm Road Bridge.

Q: Will load limits apply to the bridge and why?

A: From approximately March 2012 to September 2012 the existing 3 tonne load limit will be enforced for some heavy vehicles. During this time, it is expected that the northern abutment will be relocated 8 metres to the north. This will increase the length of the bridge span by 8 metres. It will be necessary during this construction period to limit the amount of vehicles over 3 tonne using the bridge,

The three tonne load limit will not apply to buses, garbage trucks and emergency vehicles.

Following this work, the central bridge pier will be relocated approximately 3.5m to the north and the length of the northern bridge span shortened.

Q: Will bus service 553 be maintained?

A: Yes, except during any full closures at night or on weekends. Patrons would be advised of the closure and suggested alternative arrangements at least one week in advance.

Q: Will pedestrian and cyclist access be maintained?

A: Yes, pedestrian and cyclist access will be maintained on Murray Farm Road Bridge during the construction period.

Q: Was the community told about the need to modify Murray Farm Road Bridge?

A: Yes. The need to lengthen Murray Farm Road Bridge was identified in the *Environmental Assessment*. The *Environmental Assessment* stated that the bridge would be modified in two stages to maintain one operational traffic lane during construction.

This information can be viewed on the web at:

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http://www.hillsm2upgrade.com.au/files/environmental_assessment/volume1/m2ueavol1ch6projectdescription.pdf (Section 6.3.7, pages 88/89).

The description of works included in the *Environmental Assessment* was based on the motorway carriageway being widened on the southern side of the M2 Motorway underneath the bridge.

Following community consultation and feedback during public display of the *Environmental Assessment*, a decision was taken to move the majority of these works to the northern side of the M2 in order to reduce the overall impacts of the work. These changes were explained in the *M2 Upgrade Submissions and Preferred Project Report* dated 23 August 2010.

These changes were subsequently approved by the Minister for Planning. Details about this change in design can be viewed on the web at:

<http://www.hillsm2upgrade.com.au/files/m2upgradesubmissionsandpreferredprojectreport.pdf> (Section 4.1, pages 233 to 241).

Q: When will we find out more about what is happening?

A: The project team will keep the community informed as construction progresses.

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4



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