

# M2 Upgrade

April 2011

Hills M2



Our reference: QA011

## Norfolk Tunnel widening works

As part of the Hills M2 Upgrade the Norfolk Tunnel will be widened to provide three traffic lanes and one break down lane in each direction. This information sheet will be updated as further information becomes available.



*An aerial photograph of the Norfolk Tunnel western portal*

## Questions and answers

**Q: Why does the tunnel need to be modified?**

**A:** To accommodate the widening of the motorway, the tunnel will be widened to provide three traffic lanes and one break down lane in each direction.

**Q: What sort of work will take place in the tunnel?**

**A:** Work currently underway includes site establishment, safety barrier placement, installation of lighting, installation of the noise curtains and services relocations.

Other work that will be undertaken in the coming months includes:

- Rock bolting of the existing tunnel.



**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

- Widening works using an excavator, including widening of the batters (rock walls) on both approaches to the tunnel.
- Placement of new electrical and services trenches.
- Compound establishment.

**Q: When will the work take place and what is the sequence of activities in tunnel?**

A: Work in the tunnel will generally be undertaken 24 hours per day, as it is the most complex part of the upgrade. The two tunnel tubes will be completed in separate stages. Widening of the eastbound tunnel will commence first, followed by work in the westbound tube. The works are expected to take approximately 26 months to complete.

**Q: What changes will the local community be likely to experience during construction?**

A: The improvements being made to the tunnel may impact nearby residents during the construction period. This is because most of the work in the tunnel is required to be undertaken at night and over weekend due to the high volume of traffic that use the motorway during peak periods. Residents identified as being potentially affected by the tunnel widening work will be directly contacted by the project team to discuss impacts, mitigation measures and preferred methods of communication throughout the construction process.

### Noise

Nearby residents may experience some noise associated with the tunnel improvements at their properties. Given the high-powered equipment required to cut into the rock there is a potential for noise to be generated. An acoustic noise curtain is currently being installed on both ends of the tunnel tubes to help reduce construction noise at night. We are also reviewing the equipment we use and the way it is used to obtain the quietest possible outcomes.

### Vibration

The impact of vibration from this work is low given the targeted nature of the excavation and rock bolting. Where rock-cutting is required residents may experience low-level vibration, however, it is highly unlikely to be of a magnitude that would lead to any structural damage.

**Q: How does the project team plan to manage traffic through the tunnel during construction?**

A: Traffic management has already been implemented in the tunnel including a reduced speed limit of 60 km/h. During the day, two eastbound and westbound lanes in the tunnel will remain open to traffic. At night when work is taking place in a tunnel tube, traffic will be switched to the other tube in a contra-flow arrangement.

**Q: Will there be full closures of the tunnel at any point in time as part of the works?**

A: Each tunnel tube will be closed for periods of time outside of peak times so the widening work can be undertaken. It is planned that both tunnel tubes would not be closed at the same time unless in the event of an emergency or for safety reasons.

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#### M2 Upgrade 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)

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

Live traffic: <http://www.livetrafficnsw.com.au/>

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

Call: 1800 196 266 (free call)

Post: Locked Bag 2215, North Ryde BC NSW 1670

**Q: How safe is the tunnel from structural damage during construction?**

A: The Hills M2 Upgrade team has performed a rigorous assessment of the current condition of the tunnel which revealed both tubes are in sound geotechnical condition. As no additional loads are to be placed on the structure as part of the upgrade works, the structural integrity of either tube is highly unlikely to be affected. Rock bolts will be placed in each tube to shore up the widened structure and pin the secondary lining as part of upgrade works. It is this rock bolting which may have noise impacts, however it is essential to ensure the safety of motorists and workers as well as provide for long term structural integrity of the tunnel.

**Q: When was the community told about the need to modify the Norfolk Tunnel?**

A: The need to modify the tunnel was identified in the *M2 Upgrade Environmental Assessment May 2010* and presented to the local community through information sessions held as part of the consultation process for the public exhibition of the environmental assessment.

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

A: The project team will keep the community informed as work proceeds. This communication will be via individual letters, resident meetings, phone calls, community information sessions and the project website. For more information please contact us on [enquiries@hillsm2upgrade.com.au](mailto:enquiries@hillsm2upgrade.com.au) or 1800 196 266.

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