



# The Hon Duncan Gay MLC

## Minister for Roads and Ports

Deputy Leader of the Government  
Legislative Council

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **PRICE FOR PROGRESS – KEY SYDNEY ROADS TO GET A FACELIFT**

A number of key corridors across Sydney will undergo a facelift in coming months, with major upgrades to improve the road network.

NSW Roads Minister Duncan Gay said it's a busy time for Sydney's key corridors, with major upgrades on the Sydney Harbour Bridge and cashless tolling being introduced on the Eastern Distributor and Hills M2.

"All of this work will bring improvements for motorists who rely on these key roads to get around our city," said Mr Gay.

"We are building today for tomorrow and we encourage motorists to plan ahead as the projects are carried out. There will be disruptions and delays as the work progresses across the network however we are asking motorists to bear with us while these upgrades are completed.

"This is the price of progress.

"There will be extensive information campaigns to ensure people can plan around these projects, but ultimately, there will be an impact and we just need people to be mindful that progress involves some disruption.

"This work is about getting Roads and Maritime services back to one of its core functions of building and maintaining roads."

Mr Gay said a key project would be significant work on the Sydney Harbour Bridge in January, with resurfacing requiring the bridge to be closed to general traffic in both directions for up to three weekends.

"The Sydney Harbour Bridge is 80 years old in March and we want to ensure the resurfacing of this iconic structure is completed well ahead of the milestone," he said.

"Sadly the former State Labor Government neglected the maintenance of this great icon and we've been left with a situation where traffic has been disrupted because major potholes have opened up, necessitating lane closures.

"The Sydney Harbour Bridge resurfacing work is a significant maintenance operation which is needed to ensure the bridge operates efficiently into the future."

Mr Gay also announced that two more Sydney motorways are set to go fully cashless in January, making getting around the Sydney orbital network more seamless and hassle-free.

“Roads and Maritime Services has reached an agreement with the operators of the Hills M2 and Eastern Distributor to implement fully cashless tolling from Monday 30 January 2012,” said Mr Gay.

“Introducing fully cashless tolling on these motorways will make using these important corridors easier and more streamlined for all motorists by removing the need for lane changing and merging at toll points.”

Mr Gay said resurfacing work would also be done on the M5 East starting in December and major weekend tunnel excavation work on the Hills M2 would continue for the duration of the project.

“This is the first time such extensive resurfacing work has been carried out on this freeway since it opened in 2001,” he said.

“The resurfacing work on the M5 East freeway will take place overnight to minimise the impact on motorists but it will take around three months to complete.

“The work will involve resurfacing the entire freeway, including the tunnel and the on and off ramps.”

Projects that are underway or about to start include:

- Excavation work in the Hills M2 Norfolk Tunnel, which involves lane closures and contra flow on most weekends from early November for the duration of the M2 upgrade project, due for completion early 2013.
- Realignment of the M4 motorway at the old toll plaza which involves some overnight lane closures. The work started in October and is expected to be completed early next year.
- Ongoing maintenance work on the ANZAC Bridge which started in November and will continue for about two years, which will include some overnight lane closures.
- M5 East resurfacing work which is due to start in early December and be completed by March 2012, weather permitting.
- Full closure of the Sydney Harbour Bridge for up to three weekends from 13-16 January between 10pm Friday and 5am Monday.
- The move to fully cashless tolling on the Hills M2 and the Eastern Distributor in January.

Traffic volumes on the Sydney Harbour Bridge in January are generally lower than at other times of the year, however on weekends up to 130,000 vehicles use the bridge, so significant traffic changes are required.

Traffic diversions will involve the Gladesville Bridge and Victoria Road and extensive clearways will also be in place.

The public will be encouraged to consider using public transport to get across the harbour.

During the work pedestrian and cycle paths will remain open, buses and rail services will continue to operate and emergency vehicles will be provided access if required.

More information about each project will be available in local papers, the internet, via electronic message signs, Live Traffic and private motorway websites.