

## Norfolk Tunnel weekend widening

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 work will allow the speed limit to be returned to 100km/h through the tunnel, the return of bicycles to the eastern sections of the motorway as well as improving tunnel operation and safety.

Major road work will be undertaken over a number of weekends to widen the citybound Norfolk Tunnel from **8pm Saturday 5 November 2011**. Work will be undertaken continuously between **8pm Saturdays to 5am Mondays** until mid-2012.



*Contra flow in place west of the tunnel*

## Questions and answers

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

**A:** To accommodate the establishment of a third general traffic lane and a breakdown lane on the motorway the tunnel must be widened.

**Q: When will the lanes of the tunnel be closed?**

**A:** Additional tunnel excavation work will be conducted from Saturday night to early Monday morning. This work is in addition to ongoing weekday nightworks underway since early 2011.

**At least one lane of traffic will be available in each direction throughout the work.**

All lanes will be available on **Saturdays**, including two citybound lanes and three westbound lanes.

Two westbound lanes and one citybound lane of the motorway will be available on **Friday and Saturday nights** between Beecroft Road and Terrys Creek Bridge.

Two citybound lanes and one westbound lanes will be available during the day on from **7am Sundays to 5am Monday**.

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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.livetraffic.com](http://www.livetraffic.com)

**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

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**Q: How long will the weekend excavation work be undertaken for?**

A: Citybound tunnel excavation will commence on Saturday 5 November 2011 and will be completed in mid 2012.

**Q: Will work also be needed in the westbound tunnel?**

A. Work in the westbound tunnel tube will be undertaken following the completion of work in the citybound tunnel.

During excavation in the westbound tube, two lanes of westbound traffic will be diverted into the previously widened citybound tube allowing two citybound and two westbound lanes to remain open during the weekend works.

**Q. Can I still use the Hills M2 during these hours?**

A: Yes. Motorists will still be able to use the Hills M2 Motorway during these hours. Citybound traffic will be diverted through the westbound tunnel in a contra-flow arrangement. Delays are expected at some times during the work and motorists may consider alternative routes.

**Q: What work is being carried out in the citybound tunnel?**

A: The citybound lanes of the tunnel will be closed to allow the team to carry out major excavation work to widen the tunnel and strengthen the new roof with rock bolts.

Heavy machinery using cutting heads and hydraulic hammers will be used to extract sandstone from cuttings, which will be transported elsewhere within the project site for processing.

**Q: Why is it necessary to carry out the work over weekends rather than during week nights?**

A: Due to the extensive program of work required to carry out major excavation activities in the tunnel, the team require a minimum of a 30 hour timeframe (over a consecutive period) to conduct the works.

A full cycle of construction activities is required to safely widen and reinforce a section with bolts and shotcrete before reopening the tunnel for peak hour weekday traffic.

During week day nights, additional work such as general finishing activities, mechanical and electrical works and services relocation is scheduled to be completed in the tunnel.

**Q: What impacts are expected during the citybound tunnel excavation work?**

A: Westbound traffic delays are expected during the middle of the day on Sundays. Motorists may consider alternative routes.

Citybound traffic will experience minor delays due to the reduced speed limit.

Access to the motorway will not be available from Herring Road and Lane Cove Road from 10am to 5pm on Sundays.

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The project team, the Hills M2 and the RTA will closely monitor the traffic arrangements during the weekend citybound tunnel closures. Any changes deemed necessary will be made.

**Q: How is the team managing these impacts?**

A: Steps will be taken to ensure motorists and the community are informed of the planned work and can make an informed choice as to whether to use the motorway or consider an alternative route, these include:

- Roadside electronic signs on local roads and entrances to the motorway.
- Flyers for motorists using cash toll booths
- Weekly traffic alerts providing a two week look ahead.
- Notifications for local residents.
- Advertisements in local and metropolitan newspapers and on drive time radio.
- Information on the Hills M2, Hills M2 Upgrade and RTA websites.

**Q. Will the toll be removed while this work is carried out?**

A: No, the toll will remain in place during the upgrade project.

The toll acts as an access charge for use of the motorway. It is set at a specific rate to cover the costs of construction of the motorway and ongoing maintenance.

If the toll was reduced during construction, congestion would increase resulting in less opportunity to undertake the construction and a longer construction period.

We are encouraging motorists to consider using alternative routes during this work.

Motorists will be provided information about the planned work – including through media information, traffic alerts, electronic signs, the RTA and Hills M2 website and community information.

**Q. Where can people alternatively travel during the work to avoid delays?**

A: Motorists are encouraged to plan their trip to avoid delays and to consider using alternative routes such as Epping Road and Carlingford Road

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

A: The project team will keep the community informed as work progresses. This communication will be via individual letters, resident meetings, phone calls and the project website. For more information please contact us on [enquiries@hillsm2upgrade.com.au](mailto:enquiries@hillsm2upgrade.com.au) or 1800 196 266 (select option 2).

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

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