MEDIA RELEASE

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SPIT BRIDGE UPGRADE TO MINIMISE RISK OF FUTURE TRAFFIC DELAYS

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) will soon start work to upgrade the Spit Bridge drive system, which allows the bridge to open and close for marine traffic, the Member for North Shore, Jillian Skinner, said today.

RMS started consulting with boat owners and operators in July 2011 to identify a suitable time for the shutdown of the bridge’s opening system to occur.

“I am advised work to upgrade the system will start this month, but most of it will go unnoticed by motorists and nearby residents because the drive system is housed under the bridge platform,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The work will minimise the potential for traffic delays caused by a breakdown of the lift equipment,” she said.

During a critical phase of the upgrade, currently scheduled for between Monday 16 and Sunday 29 April inclusive, the bridge will not open for marine traffic.

“Intermittent bridge and road closures will be required at various points throughout the work. RMS will work with the community to minimise the impact of these closures on boat owners, residents, business operators, motorists and pedestrians,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Immediately before the 14 day period when the bridge will not be opening, a full road closure for around three hours will be required to allow equipment to be delivered. At the end of the two week period and before normal bridge opening times resume, I am advised a second full closure will be required for around three hours,” she said.

“To minimise traffic disruptions these road closures will be scheduled to occur at night. RMS will advise the community of the details of all necessary road and bridge closures when they are confirmed and with plenty of notice.”

The $10.6 million project is funded by the NSW Government and is due to be completed in mid-2012, weather permitting.

Up to date information about the work, including any date changes, road closures or detours, will be displayed on electronic message signs along the road, on bridge banners and on the RMS website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au.