MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 8 August 2012

GETTING ON WITH THE JOB: WESTERN SYDNEY DRIVERS TO BENEFIT AS M5 WEST WIDENING GETS UNDERWAY

NSW Premier and Minister for Western Sydney Barry O’Farrell and Minister for Roads Duncan Gay today announced work has started to widen the M5 West, delivering a key election commitment to Western Sydney motorists.

“I am delighted to see work underway on this critical upgrade that will benefit tens of thousands of South Western Sydney motorists,” Mr O’Farrell said.

“Delivery of this major infrastructure project was a key election commitment to Western Sydney motorists and construction work starting is further proof the NSW Government is getting on with the job,” he said.

“When combined with the South West Rail Link, this region of Sydney is set for a major infrastructure boost from the NSW Liberals & National Government.

“Once completed, the M5 West widening will mean faster journeys for the 90,000 motorists who use it every day.

“More than half of motorists travelling eastbound on the M5 leave the motorway before the start of the M5 East Tunnel so this project will provide real benefits for tens of thousands of motorists.”

The work, estimated to support around 500 jobs, will provide an additional lane in each direction from Camden Valley Way at Prestons to King Georges Road at Beverley Hills.

The $400 million widening project is funded by Interlink Roads with the NSW Government contributing $50 million towards the cost of noise walls and other noise mitigation measures.

There will be 6km of new and 12km of heightened noise walls, bridge upgrades, a new motorway control centre at Hammondville toll plaza, and improved travel information for motorists.

Mr Gay said the motorway widening is designed to improve travel times on the M5 and reduce congestion on surrounding roads.

“The M5 West widening aims to deliver travel time savings of up to 12 minutes along the length of the motorway heading west in the evening peak,” Mr Gay said.
“For the majority of motorists who use the motorway for shorter trips, such as those getting off at Fairford Road, as much as 10 minutes could be saved when heading east in the morning.

“Work will also include resurfacing the entire road, providing motorists with a smoother and quieter ride.

“Toll charges for cars will not increase to fund the project.

“The project is due for completion towards the end of 2014, weather permitting.

“Every effort will be made to minimise the disruption during construction but unfortunately this is the price of progress and I ask for patience from motorists,” Mr Gay said.

ENDS

MEDIA: Brad Burden or Cameron Hamilton 9228 5239 (Premier’s office)
Lance Northey 0467 743 192 (Roads Minister’s office)