The NSW Government is working hard to deliver a new state of the art hospital and upgraded road network for the people of the Northern Beaches.

We’re upgrading roads around the area so the 140,000 motorists who travel through the area every day can get around easier and faster.

The upgrades will provide customers with a better travel experience, increased capacity and improved access on the road network through the area, including for pedestrians and cyclists.

At the end of the project, the people of the Northern Beaches will have a world class hospital and new road network on their door step.

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Upcoming milestones

There are three key milestones leading towards completion of the Northern Beaches Hospital road upgrade project:

1. Hospital access (Stage 1) completion

Hospital access work includes widening and upgrading:

- Frenchs Forest Road East and West
- Allambie Road
- Wakehurst Parkway
- Naree Road
- Forest Way.

Frenchs Forest Road and Naree Road returned to two-way traffic in July. A majority of the road is now open to two lanes in each direction.

Naree Road and the remainder of Frenchs Forest Road West will open to two lanes in each direction in October (weather permitting). We’ll also turn on new traffic lights at the intersection of Rabbett Street, Naree Road and Frenchs Forest Road West at the same time.

While a few work zones are still in place, Stage 1 is on track to be completed in time for the Northern Beaches Hospital opening on 30 October 2018.

2. Warringah Road (Stage 2) eastbound traffic change

Warringah Road eastbound traffic was moved across to the previous westbound traffic lanes in June 2018. This was to allow drainage, utility and road upgrade work to take place on the northern side of Warringah Road.

Warringah Road eastbound traffic will move back to the upgraded eastbound lanes in October 2018 to allow work on the Warringah Road underpass to progress.

3. Warringah Road (Stage 2) underpass construction

Underpass excavation will ramp up in November 2018. Work to construct the three road bridges and 1.3 kilometre long four lane underpass will continue throughout 2019.

Ongoing day work, night work and further traffic changes will be required to continue construction of the Warringah Road upgrade.

We will continue to provide up-to-date information and we thank residents, commuters and businesses for their patience during this important work.
Reopening Frenchs Forest Road and Naree Road to two-way traffic

On Saturday 14 July, Frenchs Forest Road East and West and Naree Road returned to two-way traffic.

New traffic lights were switched on for the first time at five intersections, and existing traffic lights at Wakehurst Parkway were modified for the new traffic lanes in operation.

Some temporary traffic arrangements were needed while construction continued on Naree Road and Frenchs Forest Road West.

Construction includes road, footpath and property adjustment work as well as landscaping. Traffic lights will be installed at the intersection of Rabbett Street, Naree Road and Frenchs Forest Road West, and at the intersection of Frenchs Forest Road East and Warringah Road by mid-October, weather permitting.

Roadwork along Frenchs Forest Road East and West and Naree Road will be completed in time for the hospital opening on 30 October 2018.

Naree Road and Frenchs Forest Road opened to two-way traffic in July 2018

Frenchs Forest Road West near the main entrance to the hospital

Frenchs Forest Road East
Warringah Road underpass design and construction

The open air underpass will provide a gateway to the Northern Beaches and the new Northern Beaches Hospital precinct running from Fitzpatrick Avenue to half way between Wakehurst Parkway and Allambie Road.

The underpass will significantly increase the capacity of the road network by providing four new through lanes on Warringah Road, two heading east and two heading west. The underpass will be located down the centre of Warringah Road with three surface lanes on each side.

Excavation of the underpass will progress from both the eastern and western ends and will meet in the middle.

The walls will be stabilised using a combination of steel reinforcement through the insertion of ‘soil nails’ or solid steel bars into pre-drilled holes, followed by layers of ‘shotcrete’ or concrete sprayed through a nozzle. Concrete panels will cover the shotcrete.

The last part of the underpass to be excavated will be under the road bridges as these have to be constructed first.

Further details of the design of the Warringah Road underpass is contained in the final Urban Design and Landscape Plan on the project website.

Did you know?

• The 80,000 motorists travelling along Warringah Road each day will bypass three intersections by using the underpass
• It is 1.3 kilometres long and is 10 metres at its deepest
• The speed limit will be 70 km/h
• Queues at local traffic lights will reduce as the bulk of the traffic moves into the underpass
• Motorists can enter the underpass at three points; Wakehurst Parkway, and the Warringah Road western and eastern entry points
• Local traffic and heavy vehicles will enjoy a faster and more direct journey to and from Chatswood and the city from Dee Why, Brookvale, Seaforth and other parts of the Northern Beaches
• The underpass draws its design from the natural ocean swell, incorporating the cresting wave design seen on the walls of the shared pedestrian and cycle bridges at Forest Way and Hilmer Street.
Environmental update

Heritage Pear Tree

A pear tree from Holland’s Orchard was identified on the northern side of Warringah Road in the initial heritage assessment for the project. The tree was believed to have been a remnant of Holland’s Orchard. In 1900 Henry Green established an orchard at Frenchs Forest, where he planted loquats, persimmons, lemons, and other fruit trees. Green’s orchard, located on the present site of Forest High School, was inherited by his son in law, John Holland, in 1906. Unfortunately, the old pear tree had to be removed to make way for the new upgraded Warringah Road. However, the project team arranged for cuttings to be taken from the tree as well as an archival recording.

Two pear tree cuttings are growing into healthy trees under the care of a local nursery. This spring, we look forward to donating these saplings to Frenchs Forest Public School and The Forest High School. Frenchs Forest Public School has an orchard and fruit and vegetable garden in its grounds and a Holland’s Orchard cutting will be planted and will take pride of place in the centre of the school’s edible garden.

Further cuttings will be taken from some remnant Holland Orchard trees located within The Forest High School grounds so there will be additional saplings that the project can donate to the Northern Beaches Council.

Holland’s Orchard Pear tree cuttings

Frenchs Forest Public School vegetable garden
Fauna management on the Northern Beaches Hospital road upgrade

Before construction began, environmental management and biodiversity offset plans were established to minimise the impact of the road infrastructure on the local environmental.

Fauna crossings and fences

Box culverts are being built under Wakehurst Parkway and Aquatic Drive providing passage beneath the road for small and large animals. Rope bridges will be installed over Wakehurst Parkway and Aquatic Drive for small to medium sized animals that like to climb.

New fences will also connect with existing boundary fences to keep animals off the road.

Replacement tree strategy

When trees need to be removed to build a road, the project is responsible for planting replacement trees either along the project corridor or in nominated suitable areas nearby, particularly if those trees were home to fauna. This has happened as part of the project. To replace tree hollows where animals might nest, 144 nest boxes were installed in remaining trees in the project area.

The role of the environment team

Monitoring animals near the project area occurs to ensure endangered species such as the Powerful Owl and the Red-crowned Toadlet are coping with the road work.

The project’s environment team also monitor water and air quality, erosion and sediment controls, containment and removal of weeds and the removal of rubbish and waste from site.

More information about environmental management is available on the project website.
Collaborating with Rotary – a trip down memory lane

Back in 1972 the Rotary Club of Frenchs Forest had only been in existence for a few months when it came up with its first community service project – “Put the Trees Back in The Forest”. Rotary, sold thousands of saplings to residents to help green up Frenchs Forest. The project culminated in an official tree planting ceremony in April 1972 on the Warringah Road nature strip near the intersection with Forest Way.

We have been collaborating with Rotary this year planting alongside the Warringah Road shared pathway. Rotary has kindly volunteered to ‘adopt the shared pathway’ and maintain plantings of shrubs and trees along the pedestrian and cyclist pathway between Rodborough Road and Fitzpatrick Avenue.

To honour Rotary and their past projects we are placing a commemorative bronze plaque on the path to remember the club’s involvement in the original tree planting project. The plaque will be placed on a sandstone cutting next to the shared path later this year.

If you would like to register for regular working bees with Rotary or volunteer for a future tree planting activity please contact the project team on 1800 014 307.

Bruce Downie, Past President of Rotary planting a tree along the Warringah Road shared pathway
Your connection to Macquarie Park

Ahead of the opening of Sydney Metro Northwest in 2019, the Epping to Chatswood train line requires upgrading to metro standards.
On Sunday 30 September 2018, Macquarie University, Macquarie Park and North Ryde stations closed for around seven months for these upgrades to be completed.
In the meantime, Station Link, a new high frequency bus service, will temporarily replace train services and will operate from station to station on seven different routes.

Key features of Station Link include:
• High frequency, turn-up-and-go services to stations between Epping and Chatswood at least every six minutes during the peak.
• Direct peak services to and from St Leonards, Beecroft and Eastwood.
• A loop service running at least every 10 minutes 7 days a week to all stations between Epping to Chatswood.
For more information about Station Link and the upgrades taking place visit www.mysydney.nsw.gov.au

‘The Blinking Light’ intersection working group
Following a successful campaign by local residents, Roads and Maritime is pleased to announce its plan to officially acknowledge the intersection of Warringah Road and Wakehurst Parkway as ‘The Blinking Light’ intersection.
We are now calling for nominations from the community to put together a working group to ensure we have your input and involvement in how we commemorate the intersection. Should this interest you, please contact the Community Team by calling 1800 014 307 or emailing nbhcommunity@nbhr.com.au

Presentations welcomed
The Community Relations Team hold community and environment forums every six weeks for locals interested in the project. The team also presents to local community groups such as Probus, Rotary, aged care facilities, schools and a variety of other groups. If you would like us to present to your local community group please contact us on 1800 014 307 or nbhcommunity@nbhr.com.au or attend one of our six weekly community forums on site.

Have your say
For more information about the Northern Beaches Hospital road upgrade project traffic changes visit the Roads and Maritime website where you will find notifications, work updates, and frequently asked questions or email us to receive the weekly traffic updates in your inbox.

1800 014 307
nbhcommunity@nbhr.com.au

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 014 307.