The Sydney Gateway road project is unlike most other major road projects in NSW because it is subject to two planning processes under NSW and Commonwealth legislations. The road project passes through both Sydney Airport land, which is Commonwealth land, and other land under the jurisdiction of NSW. It therefore requires approval from both the NSW and the Commonwealth governments.

The Sydney Gateway team has been working with NSW and Commonwealth government stakeholders to plan and design Sydney Gateway.

**NSW planning process**

In NSW, major infrastructure projects that have a significant effect on the environment are declared State Significant Infrastructure. The Sydney Gateway road project is considered State Significant Infrastructure requiring environmental assessment and approval under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. This requires a State Significant Infrastructure Application (SSIA) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for submission to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). These are reviewed by DPE before planning approval can be granted by the NSW Minister for Planning. The Minister for Planning will only make a decision on the Sydney Gateway road project after considering the EIS information, the issues raised in submissions, and the responses from Roads and Maritime.

**Commonwealth planning process**

Sydney Airport leases land from the Commonwealth Government. The parts of Sydney Gateway on Commonwealth land are subject to the planning framework outlined in the *Airports Act 1996*. On this land, Sydney Gateway becomes a major airport development under the *Airports Act*. A Major Development Plan (MDP) is required before major development at a leased airport can occur. The MDP requires approval from the Australian Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, and Regional Development.

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**NSW process**

- State Significant Infrastructure Application with scoping report
- Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements issued
- Prepare Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Publicly exhibit EIS (28 business days)
- Prepare submissions/preferred infrastructure report (if required)
- Submit submissions/preferred infrastructure report to NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)
- Assessment by DPE and recommendation to NSW Minister for Planning

**Commonwealth process**

- Prepare draft Major Development Plan (MDP)
- Submit draft MDP to Australian Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities (DIRDC)
- DIRDC refers draft MDP to Australian Minister for Environment
- Publicly exhibit draft MDP (60 business days)
- Update draft MDP considering submissions and submit to DIRDC
- Recommendation by DIRDC and the Australian Minister for Environment
- Decision by Australian Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
How will this work?

To progress planning approval for the Sydney Gateway road project, Roads and Maritime will prepare a combined EIS and draft MDP which will be on public exhibition for a minimum of 60 business days. It will be evaluated by the NSW and Commonwealth governments.

All stakeholders will be invited to make submissions during the exhibition period and those received will be co-ordinated with the different approval agencies. The diagram on page 1 shows how both NSW and Commonwealth processes will work together to meet stakeholder needs and relevant NSW and Commonwealth legislative requirements.

State Significant Infrastructure application

Following the announcement of Sydney Gateway in September 2018, Roads and Maritime Services has taken the first step in the planning process and prepared a scoping report and lodged an SSIA with DPE for the road project.

The scoping report provides early details of the project, potential impacts during construction and operation, and details of proposed environmental assessments. This is published on DPE’s website.

The Secretary of DPE will establish what topics need to be included in the environmental assessment.

The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) has made a similar SSIA for the rail project part of Sydney Gateway.

The Secretary of DPE will consult with environmental agencies and councils before issuing the Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). Roads and Maritime will hold regular intergovernmental coordination meetings with relevant approval agencies.

Combined EIS and draft MDP scope

Based on community feedback and environmental investigations to date, key issues for assessment in the combined EIS and draft MDP document would include:

- Traffic and transport, including road safety
- Noise and vibration, during construction and operation
- Access to active transport network
- Freight movement
- Flooding and drainage
- Groundwater
- Aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity
- Human health risks.

This is not an exhaustive list, and other issues identified during ongoing investigations and through community feedback will also be addressed. The EIS will be required to fully address issues presented in the SEAR’s.

To find out more about Sydney Gateway, or to have your say:

rms.nsw.gov.au/sydneygateway
1800 654 446
sydneygateway@rms.nsw.gov.au

Roads and Maritime Services
Locked Bag 928, North Sydney, NSW 2059

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 654 446.

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