Message from the Project Director

Following NSW Premier and Minister for Western Sydney, the Hon. Barry O’Farrell MP and NSW Minister for Roads and Ports, the Hon. Duncan Gay’s announcement of the M5 West Widening project, major construction commenced on 8 October 2012. Over the last three months, the project team has been busy finalising investigation work, placing traffic barriers and completing line marking to prepare the motorway for widening.

As we continue work to widen the motorway, you may notice changes such as temporary variable message signs, speed restrictions due to the reduction in lane widths and changes to breakdown lanes and bays. These methods are used to establish a safe environment for both our workers and users of the motorway. Our aim is to help everyone get home safely.

Please observe changes to speed limits. See page two for more information on our safety and incident response procedures.

Some community members have asked questions about the width of the widened motorway. I can confirm that the footprint of the motorway corridor will not increase. No additional land will be required to widen the motorway. Additional lanes will be created in the existing median and shoulder of the motorway.

I would like to thank you for your understanding and patience during this important work. Should you have any enquiries about the project, please contact our community relations team on 1800 986 933 (toll free).

We wish you a wonderful festive season.

Kind regards,

Richard Petaccia
Project Director
M5 West Widening

The project team with NSW Premier and Minister for Western Sydney, the Hon. Barry O’Farrell MP and NSW Minister for Roads and Ports, the Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC.

Project site office being set up on Henry Lawson Drive, Panania.

M5 West Widening project

A team consisting of Roads and Maritime Services, Interlink Roads and Abigroup Contractors.

Visit our website and register your email address to receive regular project updates.

Mail: PO Box 21 Moorebank NSW 1875
Phone: 1800 986 933
Website: m5westwidening.com.au
Email: info@m5westwidening.com.au
Construction update
What’s happening now?
The most visible signs of construction work are the placement of traffic barriers, lane width reduction and changes to speed limits. To allow construction work, some lanes have been narrowed to 3.2 metres. Speed limits have been reduced to 80 km/h as required in the Australian standard.

Work currently taking place in the median includes excavation and removing existing wire rope. Traffic barriers are used to separate live traffic from ongoing construction work and protect both road users and workers.

Driver safety
The safety of motorway users and workers is a high priority for us. Reductions in speed limits are in place for the safety of both motorway users and road workers. There are a number of changes on the motorway. Please drive carefully, observe speed reductions and traffic controls. Everyone deserves to get home safely.

New closed circuit television cameras have been set up along the motorway to monitor traffic flows and scan for accidents. In case of a breakdown, please stay in your vehicle, switch on your hazard lights, call our toll free community information line on 1800 986 933 and follow the prompts.

Upcoming traffic changes
In January 2013, further traffic changes will occur including speed limit reductions across the motorway.
Protecting local flora

We understand the community’s interest in local vegetation and are committed to protecting the local environment. You may have noticed orange fencing around trees along the motorway. This is part of our environmental controls to ensure sensitive environmental areas and species are protected.

Our environment team has identified 254 individual *Acacia pubescens* plants across the 22km project alignment. *Acacia pubescens*, commonly known as downy wattle, is a weeping shrub with yellow flowers and hairy branches. Mainly found in the Cumberland Plain Woodlands, *Acacia pubescens* is an endangered species protected under federal legislation.

We have also planned a translocation program should construction affect the existing downy wattle population. The translocation program, to be completed by Greening Australia, involves collecting seeds, cuttings and juvenile plants. The collections will be housed in local nurseries until they reach a suitable size for replanting.

Downy wattle (*Acacia pubescens*).

Our sustainability initiatives

Sustainability is important to the M5 West Widening project. To date, sustainability initiatives include resource conservation, waste separation and recycling systems onsite and reusing traffic barriers. As part of the project’s commitment to support local businesses and the environment, the project is sourcing material locally where possible. This minimises carbon emissions associated with haulage and waste.

On Saturday 27 October 2012, the M5 West Widening team supported Bankstown City Council’s sustainability and waste management program. Local residents were invited to the Kelso Waste Management Facility to collect free compost, mulch and native plants to improve their gardens. The M5 West Widening project donated 60 tonnes of mulch from clearing completed along the motorway.

We want your feedback on urban design and landscaping for the project

We will seek feedback on the M5 West Widening Urban Design and Landscape Plan in the coming weeks. The plan includes concepts for landscaping, vegetation, noise wall materials and colours, signage and other road fixtures. If you would like to be notified when the plan is available for comment, please register your interest at info@m5westwidening.com.au or call 1800 986 933.

Community engagement

In late August 2012, the team held a number of community information sessions to inform local communities about the upcoming project. Sessions were held at Liverpool City Library, Bankstown City Library and Riverwood Community Centre. Community members who attended provided feedback regarding clearing and maintenance, road safety and variable message sign locations. The team would like to thank the community for their attendance and support.

Noise mitigation

During construction, we endeavour to minimise noise impacts and reduce noise where possible. We thank you for your patience during ongoing work. We will take the following measures to minimise the impacts on residents:

- Scheduling noisy activities to be undertaken during the day or before midnight.
- Monitoring noise during night work, where required.
- Reminding workers to minimise noisy activity when working at night.
- Using vehicles with non-tonal reversing alarms that make a ‘quacking’ sound instead of a ‘beeping’ sound.
Roads and Maritime Services (“RMS”) is subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (“PPIP Act”) which requires that we comply with the Information Protection Principles set out in the PPIP Act.

All information in correspondence is collected for the sole purpose of delivering this project. RMS will only disclose your personal information, without your consent, if authorised by the law. Your personal information will be held by RMS at Roads and Maritime Services, 101 Miller Street North Sydney, NSW 2060. You have the right to access and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.

For more information about other related projects contact:

**M5 Expansion, now known as WestConnex**
The 33km motorways scheme includes an extension of the M4 to Sydney Airport and duplication of the M5 East from King Georges Road to General Holmes Drive. The WestConnex project team comprises of staff from Transport for NSW, Roads and Maritime Services, Infrastructure NSW and private sector partners.

To contact project staff:
- **Phone:** 1300 660 248 (business hours only)
- **Email:** WestConnex@rms.nsw.gov.au

**M5 East**
Maintenance work from King Georges Road, Beverly Hills to General Holmes Drive, Kyeemagh.

- **Phone:** 1800 653 278
- **Email:** M5East@leicon.com.au

**General M5 South West Motorway toll enquiries**

- **Phone:** 1300 555 833
- **Email:** info@eway.net.au

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