This overview outlines the environmental assessment for the proposed widening of the M5 South West Motorway by one additional lane westbound from King Georges Road, Beverly Hills to Camden Valley Way, Prestons and eastbound from Camden Valley Way to Fairford Road, Bankstown.

The environmental assessment reviews the potential environmental, economic and social benefits and impacts of the proposed M5 West widening and identifies measures to minimise these impacts.

The environmental assessment is on display for community comment. Written submissions to the Department of Planning will be received until Friday 29 October 2010. This brochure contains information on how to make a submission.

Background

In November 2009 the NSW Government announced a proposal to expand the M5 corridor and invited the community to submit their comments. Submissions on the preliminary proposals closed on 12 March, 2010.

Over 200 submissions relating to the M5 South West Motorway section of the M5 expansion were received. These submissions helped shape the environmental investigations to ensure the key issues that are important to the community were considered.

Looking east on the motorway at Fairford Road underpass, Bankstown
Why the widening is needed

The NSW Government is working to deliver a high quality transport network that meets Sydney’s population, employment and economic needs now and into the future.

The M5 South West Motorway is one of Sydney’s busiest transport corridors and is used by more than 90,000 vehicles every day. It is a key road freight and commuter route and plays an important role in Sydney’s orbital network, linking Western Sydney with the CBD, Sydney Airport and Port Botany.

The proposal to widen the motorway supports the forecast growth for Sydney’s population, employment and infrastructure.

Features of the widening

The proposed widening of the M5 South West Motorway would ease congestion on the motorway and surrounding roads as well as support the planned residential and employment growth in South West Sydney. It is proposed to:

- Widen the existing motorway west of Fairford Road to Camden Valley Way generally in the central median from two to three lanes in each direction.
- Widen the existing motorway west of King Georges Road to Fairford Road by line marking modifications from two to three lanes westbound only.
- Upgrade three bridge underpasses along the motorway; Queen Street Bridge, Nuwarra Road Bridge and De Meyrick Avenue Bridge.
- Install 22 new variable message signs on the motorway and critical roads around the motorway.
- Construct a new motorway control centre at Hammondville.

Benefits of the widening

The proposed M5 West widening would deliver much needed road capacity along the motorway and deliver the following benefits to the community and road users:

- Reduce congestion on the motorway and surrounding arterial network.
- Support Sydney’s long term growth.
- Improve access between key population hubs, commercial and economic centres such as the Western Sydney Employment Hub.
- Increase capacity to service Sydney’s existing and future transport demands.
- Improve travel times for individuals and businesses reliant on their vehicles for work such as trades people, sales people and delivery companies.
- Improve traffic management with a new motorway control centre at Hammondville.
- Improve safety and provide early warning alerts for drivers on the motorway and arterial networks by providing additional variable message signs.
Key issues assessed

The following potential impacts are described in the environmental assessment documents. A summary of the potential impact of the proposal and the mitigation measures to be used during the construction and operation of the widened motorway, is provided below.

Traffic and transport issues

Construction issues

- Temporary day and night time lane closures on the motorway outside of peak travel times.
- Temporary day and night time closures under bridges on local roads.
- A temporary increase in traffic to and from the approximately 10 construction compounds.

Managing traffic and transport issues during construction

- Keeping the community and road users informed about changes to traffic conditions on and around the motorway.
- Maintaining the existing capacity of the M5 South West Motorway during peak periods.
- Access plans for each construction site compound that minimise construction traffic on local roads.

Biodiversity issues

Construction issues

- Protecting the downy wattle (Acacia pubescens) and endangered vegetation communities including Cumberland Plain woodland, Sydney coastal river-flat forest, and coastal saltmarsh in the vicinity of the proposal.
- Protecting the waterways that cross or are near the motorway, including the Georges River and Salt Pan Creek.
- Clearing of approximately nine hectares of planted vegetation along 22 kilometres of road corridor.
- Impacts on local fauna, including the green and golden bell frog (Litoria aurea), due to the clearing of vegetation.
- Temporary disruption to nocturnal species found along the corridor including the large-eared pied bat (Chalinolobus dwyeri), eastern freetail bat (Mormopterus norfolkenis) and the eastern bent-wing bat (Miniopterus orianae oceanensis).

Managing biodiversity issues during construction

- Downy wattle and other threatened vegetation species from the motorway site will be propagated and replanted after construction is completed.
- Water quality in the Georges River and Salt Pan Creek will be managed by locating construction compounds at least 100 metres away from any water courses and by capturing water run-off from these sites in sediment basins.
- Environmental induction training for all staff working on the project would include information on the surrounding vegetation, the environmental procedures and contacts in case of environmental emergencies.
- Disturbed areas would be rehabilitated as soon as practicable through progressive landscaping.

During operation

- A bush rehabilitation and landscaping plan would be implemented.

Key issues continued on page 6....
M5 West widening project overview

**Legend**
- Proposed widening
- Proposed additional lane by linemarking modifications
- No widening works
- Major road
- Railway line
- Proposed area for variable message signs (VMS)

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Noise and vibration impact

Construction issues
A temporary increase in day and night time noise and vibration levels due to:
- Excavation, earthworks and motorway construction.
- Bridge and underpass upgrading work.
- Increases in vehicle movements and construction traffic.
- Construction site compound activities, particularly where 24 hour operations are planned at Moorebank Avenue, M5/Graham Avenue, Bransgrove Road, and Beaconsfield Road.

Operational issues
- Increase in noise due to increasing traffic volumes.

Managing noise and vibration impacts during construction
- A plan to manage construction noise and vibration would be developed as part of the construction environmental management plan.
- All construction employees would receive training as part of their environmental inductions (for example ensuring work occurs within approved hours, noise screens are used for mobile plant and equipment, and that equipment is well maintained and not making excessive noise).
- Keeping the community informed about the nature and timing of works.

Managing operational noise impacts
- New and improved noise walls.
- Assessing properties and other sensitive receivers for possible architectural treatment.
- Constructing and maintaining a low noise road pavement.

Visual impact

Construction issues
- Physical changes to the surrounding environment caused by the construction site compounds and other temporary structures on the motorway.
- Clearing of existing landscaping in the median strip and replacement of this landscaped median with concrete safety barriers.
- Loss of existing views and the character of the motorway as a green corridor.

Operational issues
- Physical changes to surrounding environment including new electronic information signs, bridge upgrades, changes to retaining walls and noise walls and a new motorway control centre at Hammondville.

Managing visual impact during construction
- Screening construction site compounds and positioning temporary offices and equipment storage away from residents.
- Limiting vegetation clearance.

Managing operational visual impacts
- Limiting vegetation clearance and implementing a landscaping and rehabilitation plan.
- Designing a rehabilitation and landscaping plan that maintains the existing character of the motorway.
The planning and decision making process

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RTA submits a major project application to the Director-General of the Department of Planning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director-General provides assessment requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>RTA prepares an environmental assessment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental assessment on public display. Formal submissions invited.</td>
<td>WE ARE HERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Planning provides RTA with a copy of the submissions to the assessment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>RTA provides a submissions report/revised project statement of commitments/preferred project report if required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment report prepared by the Director-General of the Department of Planning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minister for Planning decides whether or not to approve the project and the conditions to be attached to any approval.</td>
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Community information sessions

The community is encouraged to read the environmental assessment documents and speak directly with the M5 West widening project team at the community information sessions held in the local area.

Liverpool area
- **Moorebank Community Centre**, Cnr Nuwarra Road and Maddecks Avenue, Moorebank, Thursday 30 September 2010, 5pm–8pm.
- **Casula Public School Hall**, De Meyrick Avenue, Casula, Saturday 9 October 2010, 10am–1pm.

Bankstown area
- **Revesby Community Hall**, Macarthur Avenue, Revesby, Wednesday 6 October 2010, 5pm–8pm.
- **University of Western Sydney**, Bankstown Campus, Room BA1.1.80, Ashford Avenue, Milperra, Saturday 16 October 2010, 10am–2pm.

Canterbury area
- **Hannans Road Public School Hall**, Hannans Road, Riverwood, Tuesday 12 October 2010, 5pm–8pm.
- **Punchbowl Community Centre**, 44 Rossmore Avenue, Punchbowl, Saturday 23 October 2010, 10am–2pm.

The environmental assessment documents are also available at the following locations during office hours:
- **Roads and Traffic Authority**, Level 9, 101 Miller Street, North Sydney. Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm.
- **Department of Planning, Information Centre**, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney. Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm.
- **Nature Conservation Council of NSW**, Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown. Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm.
- **Liverpool City Council**, Liverpool Central Library, Library Plaza, 170 George Street, Liverpool. Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm, Saturday 9am–4pm, Sunday 12 noon–4pm.
- **Bankstown City Council**, Bankstown Library, 62 The Mall, Bankstown. Monday to Friday, 9am–8pm, Saturday 9am–4pm, Sunday 1pm–4pm.
- **Riverwood Library**, Cnr Belmore Road and Roosevelt Avenue, Riverwood. Monday and Thursday 10am–8pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10am–5pm, Saturday 9.30am–12 noon.
How to make a submission

Feedback and comment on the proposed M5 West Widening Environmental Assessment is welcome. You are invited to make a written submission on this proposal. The submission should include:

- Your name and address.
- Submission identification: M5 West widening – application number 10_0052.
- A statement on whether you support or object to the proposal.
- The reasons why you support or object to the proposal.

Please send your written submission by 5pm on **Friday 29 October 2010** to:

Director, Infrastructure Projects
NSW Department of Planning
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
Fax: (02) 9228 6355
Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

**Important new information if you are making a submission**

Please note that all submissions made to the Department of Planning during the public exhibition period will be posted on the department’s website. Your name will be removed to protect your privacy but you must request this. For more information visit the Department of Planning website at www.planning.nsw.gov.au

The Roads and Traffic Authority (“RTA”) is subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Act 1988 (“PIPP Act”) which requires that we comply with the Information Privacy Principles set out in the PIPP Act.

All information in correspondence is collected for the sole purpose of assisting in the assessment of this proposal. The information received, including names and addresses of respondents, may be published in subsequent documents unless a clear indication is given in the correspondence that all or part of that information is not published. Otherwise the RTA will only disclose your personal information, without your consent, if authorised by the law. Your personal information will be held by the RTA at 101 Miller Street, North Sydney NSW 2060. You have the right to access and and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.

**Contact the RTA project team**

For further information about the proposal to widen the M5 South West Motorway you can contact the RTA project team:

- **Phone**: 1800 633 332
- **Email**: m5_west_widening@rta.nsw.gov.au
- **Website**: www.m5corridorexpansion.com.au

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone the community information line on 1800 633 332.