NorthConnex - Delivering growth, easing congestion, connecting communities

Three tenders for the design and construction of NorthConnex have been assessed in terms of innovation, cost effectiveness and environmentally responsible design. The Lend Lease Bouygues joint venture was announced as the preferred contractor on 16 March 2014.

This community update outlines the features of the preferred scheme and the project approval process.

Preferred scheme announced

The NSW Government, Transurban and the M7 Westlink Shareholders are planning to construct and operate a tolled motorway linking the M1 Pacific Motorway at Wahroonga to the Hills M2 Motorway at West Pennant Hills called NorthConnex.

A solution has been proposed that minimises surface land acquisition and builds as much of the motorway underground as possible. In addition to the main tunnel, this includes approximately 4km of tunnelled entry and exit ramps.
Environmental assessment process

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared to assess the potential environmental, economic and social impacts associated with the preferred scheme and recommend measures to minimise potential impacts. Public exhibition of the EIS is planned for May 2014. During the exhibition period the community will be invited to make formal written submissions to the NSW Planning and Infrastructure.

At the close of the exhibition period, Roads and Maritime Services will prepare a submissions report to document all issues raised during the formal submissions process and provide responses.

The NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure will determine whether to approve the project and any conditions to be applied.

Property acquisition

Large sections of NorthConnex will be built underground limiting the number of properties affected on the surface. However, some surface work and buildings proposed along the route and around the two interchanges would require property acquisition. Following the selection of the preferred scheme Roads and Maritime is consulting directly with owners of properties potentially required for acquisition.

Air quality assessment

Vehicle emissions have declined dramatically in the last 10 years due to better technology in cars and increasingly stringent emission standards. In this context, NorthConnex will build on lessons learnt from other tunnel projects such as the M5 East in the assessment and management of air quality.

One ventilation outlet will be located at each end of the tunnel. The design of these structures has been integrated into related facilities and buildings to minimise visual impacts. Based on these sites, a detailed air quality study will be included in the EIS.

Hills M2 Motorway integration work

Review of the tender submissions and further design development has identified the need for integration work along the westbound carriageway of the Hills M2 Motorway from Pennant Hills Road to Windsor Road.

Integration work is required to enable the safe merge of traffic from the proposed NorthConnex tunnel onto the Hills M2 Motorway and to optimise performance in this location, where delays are often experienced in afternoon peak traffic.

The proposed Hills M2 integration work would not start until late 2015 but will be assessed as part of the environmental assessment process for NorthConnex.

Sydney Tunnel Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surface level</th>
<th>Depth range</th>
<th>Average depth</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10m</td>
<td>10-65m</td>
<td>25m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20m</td>
<td>20-25m</td>
<td>25m</td>
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<td>30m</td>
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<td>40m</td>
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<td>80m</td>
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<tr>
<td>90m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Max depth 90m

NorthConnex

70m (Maximum depth)
**NorthConnex**

*Indicative project dates*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2013</td>
<td>State Significant Infrastructure Application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2013</td>
<td>Director General provides environmental assessment requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2013</td>
<td>Submission of three competitive tenders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2014</td>
<td>Government announcement of preferred scheme and start of consultation</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2014</td>
<td>Public display of Environment Impact Statement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2014</td>
<td>Submission analysis and reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2014</td>
<td>Project approval target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late 2014</td>
<td>Final binding offer submitted and assessed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early 2015</td>
<td>Construction starts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid 2015</td>
<td>Tunnelling work starts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late 2015</td>
<td>Hills M2 Motorway integration work starts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late 2019</td>
<td>Tunnel open to traffic</td>
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</tbody>
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**We invite you to attend an upcoming community information session.**

At these sessions a brief presentation will be delivered, followed by an opportunity to meet members of the project team. They will be available to answer your questions regarding the scheme and collect your feedback.

**Wednesday 26 March 2014**

*7pm to 9pm*

Pennant Hills Golf Club  
Corner Copeland Road and Burns Road South, Beecroft

**Thursday 27 March 2014**

*7pm to 9pm*

Hornsby RSL  
4 High Street, Hornsby

**Thursday 3 April 2014**

*7pm to 9pm*

Pennant Hills Golf Club  
Corner Copeland Road and Burns Road South, Beecroft

**Saturday 5 April 2014**

*2pm to 4pm*

Pennant Hills Community Centre  
Corner Yarrara Road and Ramsay Road, Pennant Hills

**Talk to us**

Consultation will continue throughout the public exhibition of the EIS, planned for May 2014. Event details for community information sessions will be publicised closer to the planned dates.

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If you would like further information, to register to receive project updates, would like to provide feedback or discuss the project, you can contact the project team by email enquiries@northconnex.com, or call the project information line (free call) 1800 997 057.

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If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone the project information line on 1800 997 057. Our business hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

**Arabic**

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مترجم للدفء، تم إعداد خدمة ترجمة للمواطنين (TIS National) على الرقم 131 450. على الرقم 1800 997 057 يمكنكم الاتصال بخدمة الدفء (TIS National).

**Chinese**

如果您需要翻译，可以拨打131 450联系TIS National，请他们拨打1800 997 057和项目信息热线联系。我们的工作时间是9am – 5pm。

**Mandarin**

如果你需要口译员，请致电131 450联系TIS National，并问他们拨打1800 997 057联系项目信息热线。我们的工作时间是9am – 5pm。

**Korean**

통역사가 필요하시면 영어통역서비스 (TIS National)에 131 450으로 연락하여  
이제부터 1800 997 057 번으로 project information line에 문의하도록  
요청드립니다. 저희의 근무시간은 9am – 5pm 입니다.

**Vietnamese**

Nếu cần thông tin dịch, vui lòng gọi cho dịch vụ Thông dịch (TIS National) với số 131 450 vàikers gọi cho project information line qua số 1800 997 057. Chúng tôi công việc từ 9am – 5pm.
Integration work with the Hills M2 Motorway including the provision of a new westbound lane on the Hills M2, from Pennant Hills Road to the Windsor Road interchange.

Features of the preferred scheme

- The preferred scheme includes twin motorway tunnels around nine kilometres in length with two lanes and a breakdown lane in each direction, an increased height clearance of 5.3m and a speed limit of 80 km/h.
- Each tunnel will be built with long term capacity for three lanes in each direction.

1. Southern interchange with Pennant Hills Road and the Hills M2 Motorway, designed with opportunities for future connections.
2. A motorway control centre, ventilation outlet and associated facilities located near the southern interchange.
3. Tunnel support facilities.
4. Tunnel support facilities.
5. Northern interchange with Pennant Hills Road, the Pacific Highway and the M1 Pacific Motorway for future connections.
6. A northern ventilation outlet and associated facilities located within the motorway corridor.