

# Northern Beaches Hospital road upgrade project

Community Update – May 2018



Artist impression of the completed Warringah Road and Forest Way intersection.

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 use the roads every day can get around easier and faster.

The upgrades will provide customers with a better travel experience, increased capacity on the road network and improved access 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 road network on their door step.

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## Warringah Road traffic changes are coming soon!

The three new westbound lanes on Warringah Road are nearly ready for traffic. These new lanes have been built on the southern side of Warringah Road and will take traffic towards the city. Road users will notice a number of changes starting from mid-May as we prepare to open the western lanes.

Following this, eastbound traffic will temporarily shift onto the old westbound lanes making room to safely rebuild the northern side of Warringah Road in June 2018.

By creating this work area, we will be able to:

- replace stormwater drainage, kerbs and gutters
- upgrade utilities and services
- remove and rebuild the roadbase
- lay asphalt
- complete the shared path and landscaping.

In October 2018, eastbound traffic will move back to the northern side of Warringah Road, and we will ramp up excavation of the underpass.

The project is currently at peak activity, and construction work will continue through the year. Traffic delays and impacts to journey times will continue, particularly for those turning right from Warringah Road to Forest Way due to reduced lane capacity. We appreciate the support of residents and road users during this period. We're asking people who travel through the area every day to:

- **consider using alternative routes**
- **use a real-time road app to help find the best route**
- **travel outside peak periods**
- **use public transport**



The Fitzpatrick Avenue to Hilmer Street shared use pedestrian and bicycle path opened in March 2018.

## Intersection arrangements along Warringah Road from June 2018

### Forest Way and Warringah Road intersection



Right turning lanes reduced from three to two lanes.

### Hilmer Street and Warringah Road intersection



Traffic will swing to the west to allow for the construction of the Hilmer Street overpass.

### Wakehurst Parkway and Warringah Road intersection



Numerous traffic changes over consecutive weekends are required at this intersection to reach this final arrangement.

## What are we doing to minimise delays during this change?

There will be a number of measures in place during the traffic changes to help ease congestion:

- ongoing monitoring of traffic light phasing to reflect changing traffic patterns throughout the surrounding network
- accelerating work at Frenchs Forest Road and Naree Road so that two way traffic can be reinstated in July 2018
- arranging onsite incident response during peak periods
- increasing NSW Police Force presence in the area, including officers from the Motorcycle Response Team
- extended clearways on Warringah Road
- additional permanent CCTV cameras installed to:
  - improve coverage
  - enable better visibility and more dynamic monitoring of the road network
  - improve incident response
- removal of the speed hump and median island in Adams Street to improve traffic flow on Forest Way.

**We appreciate your patience and understanding while we carry out this important work.**

## What's been happening?

The hospital access work is more than 80 per cent complete, with key road connections around the hospital progressing well. Network enhancements, including the upgrade of Warringah Road and construction of the 1.3km underpass is also continuing.

Work in 2017 focused on widening Frenchs Forest Road, installing shared use pedestrian and bicycle bridges, relocating and upgrading powerlines, pipelines and cables.

Newly installed services and utilities will provide the local area with water, sewer, drainage, communications and electricity services for the next century and beyond.

## Work achieved to date includes:

- installing the two new shared use pedestrian and bicycle bridges
- dismantling the old pedestrian bridge (longest shutdown of Warringah Road to date)
- reconstructing the northern section of Wakehurst Parkway over a weekend closure
- implementing the one-way traffic arrangement on Frenchs Forest Road and Naree Road

- installing 5km of water mains, 700m of sewerage pipes and 5.1km of drainage pipelines
- installing over 7km of overhead and underground electrical systems
- installing or transferring more than 14km of new communications ducts including more than 60,000 copper pairs
- installing an estimated 100km length of fibre and cables
- moving 15,000 cubic metres of dirt
- more than 180 concrete truck deliveries to pour 6,000m<sup>2</sup> of shared user paths.

## Why is this project important?

The road upgrade project is delivering more than critical access to the new hospital. The NSW Government has identified Frenchs Forest as a key health and education precinct which will grow jobs, housing and infrastructure within the area. We are delivering part of this infrastructure with this project.

Population growth and increased employment are expected all across the Northern Beaches. Traffic modelling indicates that the future road network would come to a standstill unless there are road improvements to increase capacity and maintain traffic flow.

This upgrade provides essential infrastructure to allow the network to operate effectively and efficiently move motorists through the Frenchs Forest area into the future.

It supports the future of the area through improved access, reliability in journey times and increased traffic capacity.

The project will also deliver improved bus services in the area and improved facilities for pedestrians and bicycle users.



### The road upgrades will:

- provide local residents, hospital staff, patients and visitors direct access to the new world class facility by car, bus, bicycle or on foot
- help the 140,000 people who use the roads each day to get around easier and faster
- support the future of the area through improved access, reliability in journey times and increased traffic capacity.

## Working together with The Forest High School

The Forest High School sits within in the Northern Beaches Hospital road upgrade project area. A working group was established during the planning and design phase of the project between the project teams and the school to ensure understanding of the school's day to day operations. Importantly, the working group continues to meet during this busy time of construction.

Student safety and maintaining quiet during exam periods have both been absolutely paramount.

The road upgrade is improving access and facilities for students, parents and teachers at the school. The road upgrade includes improvements within the school itself including improved carparks and a new multi purpose games court. One carpark and the games court are complete. All work at the school will be finished by the middle of this year.

*“Working together has meant the school was able to have a voice and talk about the improvements that would help our school community, such as a safe kiss and drop facility, more parking and new sports courts, some of which the students are already enjoying. There have been some challenges, however, the delivery team works hard and stays in close contact to ensure our concerns are dealt with as quickly as possible. We look forward to continue working more collaboratively together as the road works continue”*

**Rosemary McDowall, Principal, The Forest High School**



The Forest High School's new car park is now open

## The Blinking Light intersection

Following a successful campaign by local residents, Roads and Maritime is pleased to announce that we plan to officially acknowledge the intersection of Warringah Road and Wakehurst Parkway as 'The Blinking Light intersection'.

In the first half of the 20th century, the intersection was the scene of multiple high speed collisions when the two roads were dirt tracks through the bush. To warn motorists of the danger, a blinking light was suspended above the intersection in 1952. It quickly became a local landmark. The Blinking Light was replaced by traffic lights in 1966, and the intersection has been upgraded several times since.

We are currently finalising details about how we continue to honour the intersection, and will share further details soon.





Aerial shot of work progressing along Warringah Road, near the new Northern Beaches Hospital.

## Take a look at our new project website



We want to improve how we communicate with you. The project website now features easier to find information, a new visual mapping tool, image library and improved organisation of construction updates that help to explain current work locations and traffic changes. You can see this for yourself by visiting [rms.nsw.gov.au/nbh](http://rms.nsw.gov.au/nbh)

## Have your say

For more information about the Northern Beaches Hospital road upgrade project traffic changes visit the Roads and Maritime website [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/nbh](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/nbh) where you will find notifications, work updates, and frequently asked questions or email us to receive the weekly traffic update in your inbox.

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