Progress on the new underpass at Airport East

The Australian and NSW Governments are upgrading roads around Sydney’s Kingsford Smith Airport to help improve traffic flow around the airport and Port Botany.

Sydney Airport and Port Botany are two of the most important international gateways facilitating the movement of millions of people and freight around New South Wales each year.

Roads and Maritime Services is delivering major upgrades on behalf of the Australian and NSW Governments, with two key precincts within the overall airport network identified for improvement.

- Airport North Precinct, along O’Riordan Street between Joyce Drive and Bourke Road, Mascot
- Airport East Precinct, in the area covering Wentworth Avenue, Botany Road, Mill Pond Road, Joyce Drive and General Holmes Drive, Mascot.
Airport East Precinct

Roads and Maritime is upgrading roads east of the airport to improve the movement of rail freight facilities to and from Port Botany and traffic flow and access to the airport and Port Botany.

Key benefits of the Airport East Precinct upgrade are:

• improved road user safety by removing the existing railway level crossing on General Holmes Drive
• improved traffic flow and access to the Airport and Port Botany
• improved movement of rail freight facilities to and from Port Botany
• improved intersections in the area to support future growth and access to the Airport
• reduced congestion through road network improvement
• improved connections for pedestrians and cyclists with a new shared path on Wentworth Avenue
• improved travel times to get you to the Airport quicker in both the morning and evening peak
• the newly built rail bridge over the Wentworth Avenue underpass allows for future duplication of the Port Botany Freight line which will improve its freight capacity.

Construction Progress

Construction is continuing on the Airport East Precinct upgrade with work on track to finish this year.

Since work started in February 2017, we have:

• widened Joyce Drive and General Holmes Drive and opened the new third lane to traffic
• completed construction of the new rail bridge and rail track at Botany Road opposite Wentworth Avenue
• completed construction of the new canal bridge near General Holmes Drive
• rebuilt the intersection of Joyce Drive and Qantas Drive at the entrance of the Sydney Airport Domestic Terminal
• rebuilt the intersection of Wentworth Avenue and Botany Road decreasing the road level by up to one and a half metres to tie into the new underpass.

Over the next six months we will:

• complete work on the new Wentworth Avenue underpass and open it to traffic
• complete road work at the intersection of Botany Road and Wentworth Avenue
• finish relocating services and utilities around the intersection of Botany Road and Wentworth Avenue, on General Holmes Drive and Joyce Drive
• finish major utility relocations to provide a new underground storm water system.
Widening and site establishment on O’Riordan Street starting Airport North Precinct

Roads and Maritime is also upgrading roads north of the airport to help improve traffic flow around Sydney Airport. The Airport North Precinct upgrade involves widening O’Riordan Street to three lanes in each direction between Bourke Road and Robey Street.

The work will tie with the new one-way road system on Robey and O’Riordan Streets and through the T2/T3 domestic terminals.

Key benefits of the Airport North Precinct upgrade are:
• improved pedestrian and cycle access to and from the airport along O’Riordan Street
• improved traffic flow at peak times by providing six through lanes on O’Riordan Street between Bourke Road and Robey Street and increasing the average travel speeds around the area
• improved traffic flow in and out of the airport by coordinating the state road network with the Sydney Airport internal road network
• improved travel speeds for the freight task moving goods and services to and from Sydney Airport and Port Botany will boost productivity and drive economic growth.

Construction Progress

Major work on the project started in October 2018 and work is progressing well.

Road work has started and is moving into the next stage with work to build the new road base continuing this year.

Since work started, we have:
• carried out demolition work along O’Riordan Street
• established site compounds at 166 and 200 O’Riordan Street
• installed environmental controls and carried out tree removal and vegetation clearing
• identified and started some relocations of services and utilities.

Over the next six months we will be:
• relocating major services, including electricity, gas, water, sewerage and communications
• carrying out line marking, sign and traffic barrier installation and temporary traffic changes along O’Riordan Street between Bourke Road and Joyce Drive.
Out of hours work update

Airport North Project

As previously notified, the project will undertake out of hours work five nights per week throughout the duration of the project. Noisy work will be completed by midnight, where possible.

Some activities, including asphalt laying and some essential utility relocations, can’t be completed by midnight due to the complex nature of the work. During these activities, where we need to work past midnight, the project will only work three nights per week to ensure that the local community has additional respite from this work.

You will be notified in advance of any of these activities starting, the notification will include the details and the expected timeframe of the work to be carried out.

We welcome your ongoing feedback and thank you for your patience during this important work.

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Sydney Airport Precinct project please contact the project team on:

1300 862 844
comms.airportprecinct@jhg.com.au

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 708 727.