Tunnelling is well underway across the NorthConnex project, with more than three of 21 kilometres of tunnels dug out and construction work advancing across the route.

This update provides information on construction of the nine kilometre NorthConnex underground motorway linking the M1 Pacific Motorway at Wahroonga to the Hills M2 Motorway at West Pennant Hills.

We would like to thank residents, businesses and motorists for their ongoing patience and support during construction.

For the latest information about the project, including tunnelling progress and our environment and community initiatives please visit www.northconnex.com.au or call 1800 997 057.

Training hub launched

NorthConnex launched its own training hub for up to 300 apprentices and other project workers at the project office in West Pennant Hills in November 2016. The hub represents a $10 million investment in training by Lendlease and Bouygues. It is a dedicated facility designed to provide training and certification to the NorthConnex workforce.

Urban Design and Landscape Plan

The first stage of the Urban Design and Landscape Plan was on display for public comment in November 2016. Stage one of the Plan describes design elements for the project, including noise barriers, bridges, retaining walls, road signage and pedestrian routes. The project team is considering 63 submissions before finalising stage one. Stage one of the draft Plan is available for viewing at www.northconnex.com.au/udlp.

Stage two of the Plan describes the design for NorthConnex buildings such as the ventilation outlets, Motorway Operations Complex and service buildings and will be available for public comment in the coming months. Please visit our website to keep abreast of display dates and on how to provide comment.

In this issue

• Construction update
• Tunnelling progress
• Community and Environment
• Hornsby Quarry

Trainees, apprentices and staff at the NorthConnex training hub launch.
Tunnelling progress

Of the 19 roadheaders planned, 16 are currently excavating the tunnel from four sites along the route. The project teams at the tunnel sites at Wilson Road and Trelawney Street are establishing areas at the bottom of the shaft to build spoil conveyor belts and ventilation systems and to assemble equipment after it is loaded down the shaft in pieces.

Roadheaders at the Southern compound and Northern compound are progressing at about five metres per day.

Tracking tunnel progress

Tunnel progress is updated weekly on the project website at www.northconnex.com.au and a new interactive map will soon be available to keep residents up-to-date. A detailed display map has been installed at the Community Information Centre. These maps show the location of roadheaders operating from four sites across the route.

When is tunnelling happening in my area?

You can check tunnelling progress on the website to see where we are currently working. If your property is directly above the tunnel route, the project team will write to you a month before we plan to be working in the area. The project team is available to answer questions about the route, tunnelling activity and other construction activity on 1800 997 057. The tunnel progress maps are available at www.northconnex.com.au.

Community and environment

Delivering NorthConnex requires careful management of impacts on the community and environment. In addition to the initiatives and environmental management strategy outlined in the Environmental Impact Statement, the team continues to review our activities to make improvements and minimise impacts.

During the past few months the team reassessed construction planning for widening the M2 Motorway and reduced the need to clear more than 1.3 hectares of vegetation. That is about the size of 1.3 international football fields and included saving more than 470 square metres of endangered Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest and 742 Epacris purpurascens, commonly known as Heath, a threatened species.

The project team has been monitoring nest boxes installed to replace tree hollows removed by the project. Some of the boxes, made in a partnership with Hornsby Woodworking Men’s Shed, were found to be inhabited by local native species.

Throughout 2016 we also continued with our community programs including the Tiny Tunnellers school holiday program, school visits, and community information kiosks and mobile community display in the local area. For more information about our programs, or to request a display at your business or event, please call 1800 997 057, email enquiries@northconnex.com.au or visit www.northconnex.com.au.

Hornsby Quarry

NorthConnex is working with Roads and Maritime Services and Hornsby Shire Council to reuse around one million cubic metres of excavated rock and soil to partially fill Hornsby Quarry. This will allow council to start rehabilitating the site as a public recreational area.
During the next few months, work will include widening Bridge Road between Hornsby TAFE and Roper Lane, and widening the existing access track from Bridge Road to Old Mans Valley. To ensure the safety of local residents and to minimise impacts from trucks delivering spoil to the Quarry, access to and from Roper Lane at Bridge Road will be closed in the first quarter of 2017.

**Mount Ku-ring-gai concrete batching plant starts operations**

NorthConnex will use about 360,000 cubic metres of concrete to build the whole project. 200,000 cubic metres of concrete will line the tunnel. That is enough to fill nearly 150 Olympic swimming pools.

A new facility has been built at Mount Ku-ring-gai to prepare the concrete, taking advantage of being close to both the tunnel and supplies of sand and gravel from Peats Ridge. The site includes a concrete batching plant, offices, wash down, storage silos and concrete testing facilities. It operates 24 hours, seven days a week.

Tim Orpen, Lendlease Bouygues Project Director, said “we are using a huge amount of concrete on this project and it is important it is delivered to site in a timely manner to ensure the quality is not affected. Locating the batch plant close to where the concrete will be used provides better quality assurance and helps to reduce truck haulage through Sydney.”

### Construction Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>What's coming up in the next three months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Hornsby Quarry | • Completing construction of Old Mans Valley access track for haulage trucks  
• Constructing and operating a conveyor to take the spoil from the Old Mans Valley stockpile site to the rim of the quarry void. |
| Pearces Corner, Wahroonga | • Relocating existing services including gas, water, communications and power  
• Building a pedestrian footpath on Russell Avenue  
• Removing a median on Pennant Hills Road  
• Road widening work on Pennant Hills Road, northbound. |
| Northern Compound, Wahroonga | • Ongoing excavation of tunnels using roadheaders 24/7  
• Delivery of third roadheader to site in March  
• Starting construction of tunnel entry and exits. |
| M1 Southbound, Wahroonga | • Relocating services including gas, water and electricity  
• Excavating to build the retaining wall on M1 shoulder  
• Constructing a new pedestrian walkway at Hewitt Avenue  
• Start constructing a permanent noise wall |
| Sewer and creek realignment M1 east, Wahroonga | • Traffic switch in early January will facilitate Cockle Creek realignment work  
• Excavating and piling between Bareena Avenue and Burns Road  
• Junction Road compound fully operational as a compound delivering M1 widening work. |
| M1 Pacific Motorway widening, Wahroonga | • The northbound traffic switch in early January allowed the project team to commence construction of the tunnel portals and noise walls  
• Relocating existing services including gas, water, communication and power  
• Excavating as part of work to the retaining wall. |
| Northern Ventilation Facility, Wahroonga | • Starting construction of ventilation facility buildings  
• Starting construction of permanent noise wall. |
If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS International) on 131 450 and ask them to call the NorthConnex Project Team on 1800 997 057 – the interpreter will then assist you with the translation. TIS International business hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

What is NorthConnex?
NorthConnex is a nine kilometre tunnel which will link the M1 Pacific Motorway at Wahroonga to the Hills M2 Motorway at West Pennant Hills, removing around 5,000 trucks daily off Pennant Hills Road.

The underground motorway includes interchanges to the north and south of the road tunnel. When complete in 2019, it will link Sydney’s north to the Orbital road network and enable travel from Newcastle (M1) to Melbourne without a single set of traffic lights.

NorthConnex will also boost the state and national economies by providing more reliable journeys and shorter travel times for the movement of freight.

More questions? Contact us
The NorthConnex project team is committed to working closely with you to inform you of upcoming work over the course of the project and to minimise impact from our construction activities. For further information on NorthConnex please don’t hesitate to contact members of the project team by: Phone: 1800 997 057 Email: enquiries@northconnex.com.au Website: www.northconnex.com.au Mail: Locked Bag 1001, West Pennant Hills NSW 2125 Visit: NorthConnex community information centre, 118 Yarrara Road, Pennant Hills. Monday to Wednesday from 9am to 1pm.