

MEDIA RELEASE

28 APRIL 2017

NORTHCONNEX HITS PEAK AS LAST ROADHEADER ROLLS INTO TUNNEL

Hornsby MP Matt Kean has today announced the 19th and last roadheader to enter the \$3 billion NorthConnex project will be named Dahlia after the tunnel manager's daughter.

Mr Kean said NorthConnex is a vital piece of congestion busting infrastructure and it's great to recognise the efforts of the many people working on the project.

"Not many people know, but it's tradition the last roadheader be named after the tunnel manager's wife or daughter, and in this case it's being named after Ian Webb's baby daughter."

"Dahlia joins 18 other roadheaders, including Petra named by Thornleigh West Public School and the Meehan Demon named by Pennant Hills Public School."

"The roadheaders are distributed across four compounds, with six at the Southern Interchange, four at Wilson Road, four at Trelawney Street and five at the Northern tunnel site."

Mr Kean said roadheaders were the best method to excavate rock and most suited to cut the unique shape of the twin nine kilometre road tunnels.

"Each roadheader can cut up to five metres a day and the spoil generated is then transported to the surface via vertical conveyor belt systems or by 40 tonne buckets lifted by a gantry crane."

"Dahlia is the last of the originally scoped roadheaders to enter the tunnel, but there could be an opportunity for additional roadheaders to be sourced as the project continues."

"NorthConnex will be one of Australia's deepest roads, reaching up to 90 metres below ground, and link the Hills M2 Motorway at Pennant Hills and the M1 Pacific Motorway at Wahroonga."

Once complete in 2019, NorthConnex will save motorists up to 15 minutes of travel time by passing 21 sets of traffic lights on Pennant Hills Road.



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