

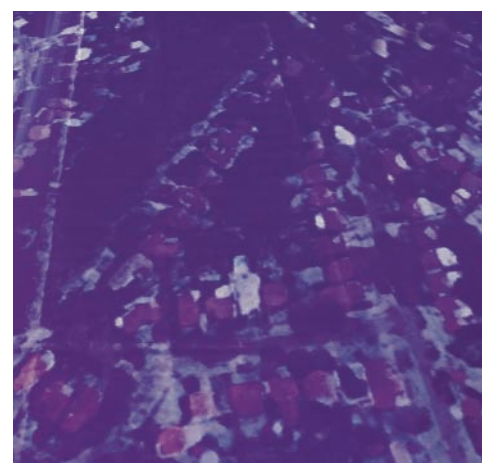
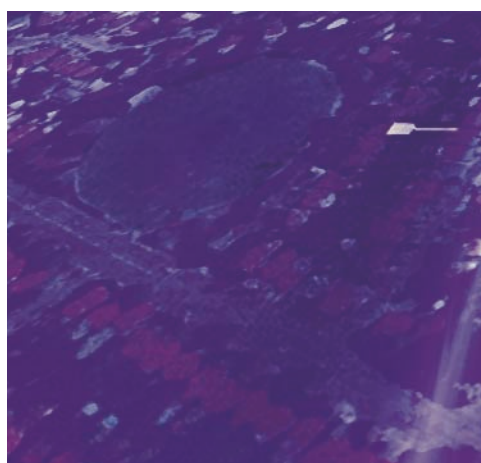
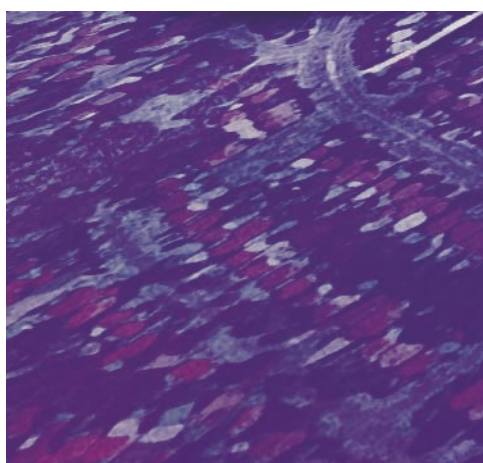
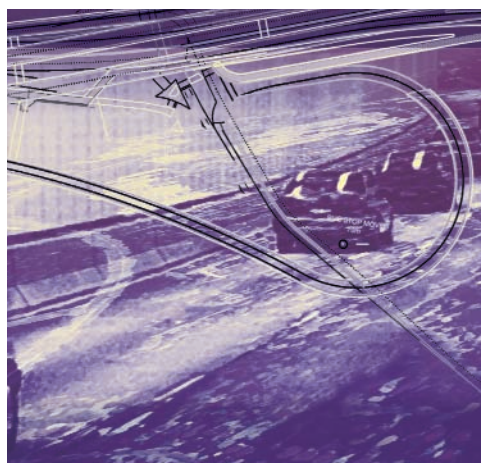
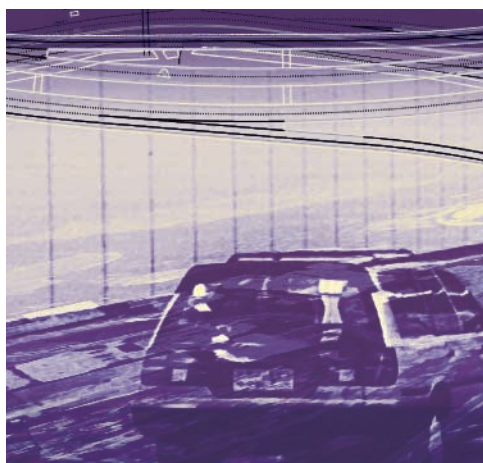
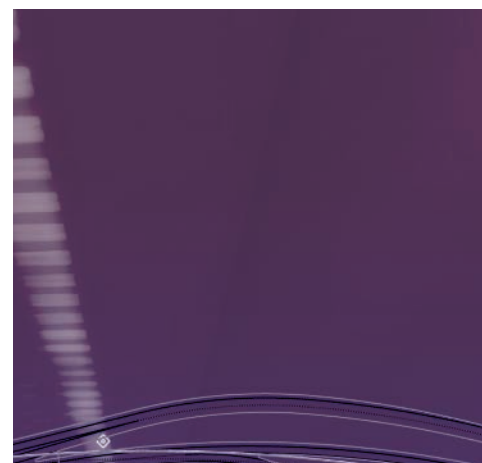
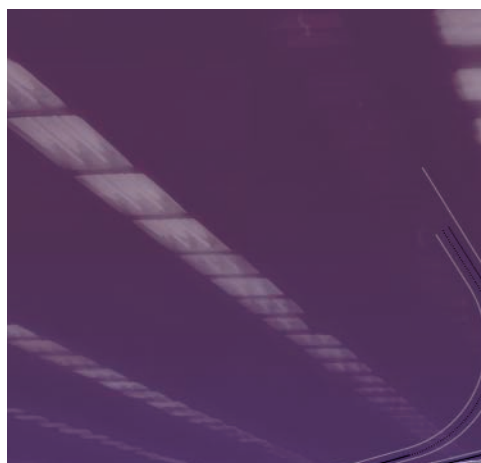
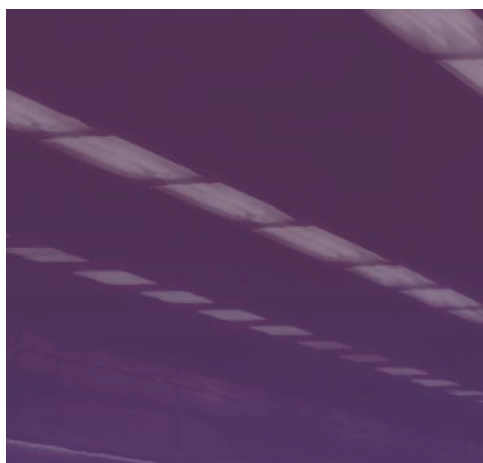


Lane Cove Tunnel

And associated road projects

PLANNING APPROVAL

DECEMBER 2002



Lane Cove Tunnel

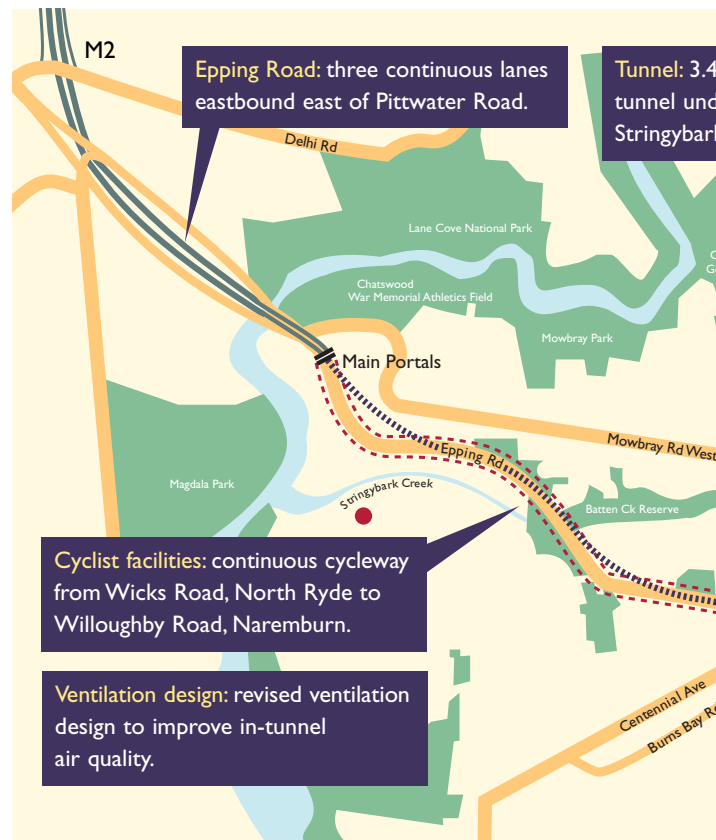
The Lane Cove Tunnel will be a key link in Sydney's orbital motorway network, connecting the Gore Hill Freeway with the M2. It will result in quicker journey times between the city and Sydney's north west. The project was approved by the Minister for Planning in December 2002.

From January 2003, the RTA will be assessing proposals from four private sector groups to design, construct, operate and maintain the motorway. Work is expected to start in 2003, with the tunnel open to traffic in 2006.

Benefits

The Lane Cove Tunnel will bring significant benefits for through traffic and the local community. These include:

- Quicker journey times between the city and Sydney's developing north-western sector, with connections to Sydney's expanding orbital motorway network.
- Reduced traffic on Epping Road/Longueville Road and Mowbray Road West, east of the Lane Cove River.
- Improved access for local traffic by reinstatement of right turns.
- Improved bus services.
- A continuous cycleway from Wicks Road, North Ryde to Naremburn which will form part of a continuous bicycle route north-west of Sydney Harbour.
- Improved pedestrian facilities.
- Improved local access.
- Reduced traffic noise.
- Improved local air quality.



A better project

As a result of community input and discussions with PlanningNSW, two significant enhancements have been made to the project since the release of the Preferred Activity Report in July.

Willoughby Road underpass

The Willoughby Road underpass design has been reviewed to provide six lanes (two general traffic lanes and one T2 transit lane in each direction), on the Gore Hill Freeway within the existing pavement area beneath the Willoughby Road bridge. This modification will reduce disruption to traffic, noise and dust impacts during construction by minimising the relocation of existing retaining walls. The modification will preclude cyclists travelling along the shoulders of the Gore Hill Freeway, but alternative off-road cycle access will be provided between Park Road and Merremburn Avenue in Naremburn, creating new opportunities for connections to other cycle routes in the area. The existing pedestrian bridge across the Gore Hill Freeway will be widened to become a shared cyclist/pedestrian crossing.

Better air quality

Motorway tunnels improve air quality by taking cars and their emissions off surface streets. Studies show the Lane Cove Tunnel will substantially improve local air quality by reducing traffic volumes on Epping Road. Significant air quality improvements will extend several hundred metres either side of Epping Road.

The tunnel will be ventilated by two ventilation stacks: one at the western end, in the Lane Cove West Industrial Park in Sirius Road; and one at the eastern end, in the Artarmon industrial area, between the western end of Marden Street and the Pacific Highway.

Under normal traffic conditions, tunnel air will travel to the ventilation stacks via the traffic tunnels.

km twin, two/three lane
 er Epping Road and
 k Creek.

Bus interchange: at the intersection of
 Longueville Road and Parklands Avenue.

Traffic monitoring: closed circuit TV camera and
 variable message signs along the Motorway to aid
 incident response.

Air quality monitoring: Ambient air quality
 monitor stations will be established at both the
 eastern and western ventilation stacks.

Pedestrian bridge: on the eastern side
 of the intersection of Longueville Road
 and Parklands Avenue.

Pacific Highway: entry and exit ramps.

Willoughby Road underpass: revised design to
 provide transit lanes within the existing road
 reserve. Provision for cyclists will be via off-road
 facilities with connections to the Gore Hill and
 Warringah Freeway.

**Warringah Freeway at Falcon
 Street:** traffic ramps at the
 Warringah Freeway would mean
 motorists travelling between
 Falcon Street and the M2 would
 bypass 26 sets of traffic lights.

Gore Hill Freeway: Transit Lanes (T2)
 on the Gore Hill Freeway which will be
 regularly assessed for upgrading to T3
 lanes or bus lanes if needed.

Pacific Highway: bus lanes for improved bus travel
 between Longueville Road and North Sydney.

Falcon Street bridge: pedestrian
 access across Warringah
 Freeway on southern side.



Under improvements designed by the RTA, a special ventilation tunnel will now be constructed under the traffic tunnels. During congested traffic conditions or incidents such as accidents and breakdowns, tunnel air will also travel to the ventilation stacks via the ventilation tunnel. This will provide better air quality in the traffic tunnels and reduce the need for emissions at the traffic tunnel portals (entrances and exits).

A fresh air intake will draw fresh air into the tunnels. Two vacant blocks of land at 130 and 132 Epping Road (owned by the RTA), have been identified as a potential location for the air intake. The final location will be considered during detailed design of the project. The above ground section of the air intake will be designed in consultation with nearby residents and council.

Recent motorway tunnel projects have attracted some calls for installation of electrostatic precipitators (ESPs) to filter vehicle emissions. The world leader in road tunnel construction, the

LANE COVE TUNNEL ROUTE

Norwegian Public Roads Administration, confirms that filtration is a complex field that is still considered to be developing technology. While it remains an area of ongoing research and investigation, insufficient evidence exists to justify the installation of filtration equipment in Sydney road tunnels. The ventilation stacks for the Lane Cove Tunnel will be constructed so that treatment equipment can be fitted if and when the developing technology can be proven to be effective and appropriate.

Monitoring air quality

Monitoring of carbon monoxide within the tunnel will be conducted once the tunnel is open to traffic with tunnel air quality having to meet limits set by the Environment Protection Authority. Comprehensive ambient air quality monitoring will occur around the ventilation stacks, including a community-based monitoring station operated independently from the RTA. The motorway operator will need to meet air quality goals around the ventilation stacks and publish the hourly real-time monitoring results via a website.

An Air Quality Community Consultative Committee will be established prior to substantial construction of the motorway commencing to enable communication between the community, the motorway owners and the RTA about air quality issues.

Approval conditions

Under the planning approval for the Lane Cove Tunnel, the RTA is required to meet a range of conditions aimed at maximising the project's benefits and minimising any adverse impacts on local communities.

Urban design

The RTA will develop a specific urban design strategy for the Epping Road corridor between Mowbray Road West and the Pacific Highway after discussions with the local community. These measures include:

- Maintaining the 'azalea display' on Epping Road.
- Creating a 'gateway' feature to Epping Road at Longueville Road.
- Using native plants for landscaping.

Public transport

Planning approval has identified further improvements to bus priority measures through the corridor. A Public Transport Committee will be established to monitor the implementation and operation of specific bus priority measures required under the project.

How can I find out more?

Copies of the Minister for Planning's approval, the RTA Chief Executive's determination, the report of the Director-General of PlanningNSW and the RTA's Representations Report are available for inspection until 31 January 2003 at the following locations:

RTA 260 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills 83 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown SYDNEY	LANE COVE Lane Cove Municipal Council 48 Longueville Road Library 139a Longueville Road
PlanningNSW The Planning Centre Ground floor, 20 Lee Street	GREENWICH Library 48 Greenwich Road
NSW Government Information Centre Goodsell Building Cnr Phillip and Hunter Streets	NORTH SYDNEY North Sydney Council 200 Miller Street Stanton Library 234 Miller Street
NSW Environment Centre Level 5 362 Kent Street. CHATSWOOD	RYDE Ryde Central Library Devlon Street, Ryde North Ryde Library 201 Coxs Road, North Ryde
Willoughby City Council 31 Victor Street Library 407 Victoria Avenue	

Managing construction impacts

Planning approval includes comprehensive measures to minimise the impact of the motorway's construction on the community including:

- Maintaining current public transport service levels.
- Extensive restrictions on noise and emission generating construction activity.
- A 24-hour toll-free hotline for community complaints and queries.
- Plans to address issues such as maintaining vehicle, cycling and pedestrian access.

Local traffic management

The local and regional road network will be monitored to address the risk of any adverse traffic impacts in the areas surrounding the Lane Cove Tunnel during construction and after the opening of the motorway.

Traffic Management Plans will be prepared to manage traffic flows through and in the vicinity of the project during construction, with existing facilities maintained for public transport, bicycles and pedestrians.

Access to properties and businesses will be maintained at all times during construction and following the opening of the Lane Cove Tunnel to traffic. A Business Management Strategy will be prepared in consultation with Epping Road businesses to help minimise construction impacts and to maintain vehicle and pedestrian access to properties during business hours.

Planning approval also requires the development of Local Area Traffic Management Plans in consultation with stakeholders and the community to mitigate increases in traffic on local roads and to maintain the benefits of reduced traffic on other roads as a result of opening the tunnel.

Keeping communities informed

Local communities will be provided relevant and timely information before and during construction. Community involvement will include establishment of community liaison groups, ongoing advertising of construction activities and potential disruptions, a project website and display centre.

Funding

The Lane Cove Tunnel is proposed to be built and operated by the private sector. It will be funded by a toll of about \$2 for vehicles using the tunnel and about \$1 at the Falcon Street ramps. Tolling will be electronic to avoid the need for toll booths and to maintain smooth traffic flow.

Further information

For further information contact the toll-free Information Line on 1800 500 410 or visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au

