



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



August 2018

Factsheet: Wolseley Street tunnel – Mulgoa Road, Jamisontown upgrade

The Australian and NSW Governments are planning to widen and upgrade Mulgoa Road / Castlereagh Road to support current and future traffic demands and expected growth in the area. This includes \$100 million to fast-track the first stage of the corridor upgrade between Jeanette Street, Regentville and Blaikie Road, Jamisontown.



Image of Wolseley Street tunnel on Mulgoa Road, Jamisontown

Roads and Maritime Services will widen Mulgoa Road between Jeanette Street to Blaikie Road from two lanes to three lanes in each direction. In order to widen Mulgoa Road, we need to decommission the Wolseley Street tunnel into the Penrith Homemaker Centre. The tunnel will be replaced by two right-hand turning lanes into Wolseley Street.

Why is the tunnel being decommissioned

Further property acquisitions

At every step of the design stage, the project team has done everything possible to reduce the need for property acquisition.

Decommissioning the tunnel means only a small section of Council land needs to be acquired for the increase in lanes, and a limited number of properties are affected.

Ongoing maintenance of the tunnel

The Wolseley Street tunnel is over 30 years old. Maintaining this asset into the future would have become increasingly expensive.

The cost-vs-benefit of maintaining the tunnel compared to maintaining other roads across Sydney does not justify the retention of the tunnel when widening Mulgoa Road from two to three lanes in each direction.

Flooding

The tunnel is prone to flooding during storms. Decommissioning the tunnel means replacing it with a route that can be used during significant wet weather.

Other reasons

Traffic flow and driver safety will both be improved with the removal of the tunnel and a widened Mulgoa Road. This is especially the case as retaining the tunnel during construction would increase safety risks and traffic flow concerns.

Widening Mulgoa Road

While Roads and Maritime could widen Mulgoa Road without removing the tunnel, the removal of the tunnel allows Roads and Maritime to increase the number of lanes without encroaching significantly on surrounding properties.

Decommissioning the tunnel means no residential properties would need to be acquired. It also means Hutchinson Crescent and Huron Place can remain separate streets in parallel to Mulgoa Road.

Change in driver behavior and traffic management

Decommissioning the Wolseley Street tunnel will change driver's behaviour entering the Penrith Homemaker Centre, not only when traffic comes from the south but also traffic comes from the north to turn right.

When Roads and Maritime decommissions the tunnel during construction, temporary access will be provided to the Penrith Homemaker Centre using the median between Glenbrook Street and Wolseley Street as a right-turn lane on the southbound lane heading into the Centre.

A traffic management plan will be prepared in accordance with the Roads and Maritime guidelines and approved before it is implemented. Such a plan would provide details of traffic management controls during construction. This ensures traffic flow on the surrounding road network is maintained where possible.

During construction, Roads and Maritime will keep the community informed before any changes to the traffic arrangements.

We want to hear from you

If you have any questions or need more information about the Mulgoa Road upgrade, please contact the project team on 1800 733 084 or email mulgoaroadupgrade@rms.nsw.gov.au.

For more information on our projects, visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au. Thank you for your patience during this important work.