Transport for NSW

Sydney Airport Precinct Update

Project updates | October 2020

Airport North: project view from Sydney Airport

Sydney Airport and Port Botany are two important international gateways used for the movement of millions of people and goods around the country each year.

Over 40 million passengers travel through Sydney Airport each year and before Covid-19 pandemic more than 150,000 people travel to and from the Airport Precinct each day. Around 75 per cent of airport passengers, visitors and workers travel by road. This traffic, combined with freight trucks to and from Port Botany and other road users, cause congestion on the roads around the airport.

Transport for NSW completed a study of every approach to the airport and identified three key areas to upgrade that would help improve travel times, reduce congestion and improve transport efficiencies. The projects would also improve the Sydney Airport's internal road network.

These were:

- **Airport East Precinct**: upgrading roads east of Sydney Airport, removing the General Holmes Drive rail level crossing and providing a road underpass at Wentworth Avenue
- **Airport West Precinct**: Widening Marsh Street to six lanes (three in each direction) from Giovanni Bridge to the M5 interchange in Arncliffe
- **Airport North Precinct**: Widening O'Riordan Street to six lanes (three in each direction) from Bourke Road to Robey Street in Mascot.

Over the last four years Transport for NSW has been delivering these major upgrades on behalf of the Australian and NSW Governments. In October 2020 we completed the final stage of the Airport Precinct Upgrades – Airport North. The projects have upgraded the roads in the Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport area to help improve traffic flow around the airport and Port Botany.

Airport North Precinct

Transport for NSW have completed upgrading the roads north of the airport, widening O'Riordan Street to three lanes in each direction between Bourke Road and Robey Street. The project has allowed local businesses and the community enjoy the benefits of the new roadway and shared pedestrian paths. The project is the another piece of the puzzle for improving congestion and travel times around Port Botany and the Airport.

Benefits:

- six through lanes on O'Riordan Street between Bourke Road and Robey Street
- improved traffic flow at peak times will increase average travel speeds across the area
- improved traffic flow in and out of the airport supports changes to Sydney Airport internal roads network
- footpath improvements on O'Riordan Street and Robey Street delivers better pedestrian and cycle access to and from the airport along O'Riordan Street.

Construction Progress

Major work on the project started October 2018 and work has now been completed.

The major milestones for the project include:

- converting Robey Street (from O'Riordan Street to Qantas Drive) and the southern section O'Riordan Street (from Robey Street to Joyce Drive) into one-way roads
- widening O'Riordan Street to provide six through lanes between Bourke Road and Robey Street
- reconfiguring the existing traffic lights on O'Riordan Street between Qantas Drive and Bourke Road
- upgrading the footpaths to shared paths on O'Riordan Street
- removing overhead powerlines along O'Riordan Street and installing new underground power supplies to businesses and residents.

Airport East

Transport for NSW completed upgrading roads east of the airport and the project. The project has helped improve freight rail movements to and from Port Botany and improve traffic flow and access to the airport and Port Botany. Travel times through this area have improved, providing easier access to and from the Airport and less time spent sitting in traffic.

- replaced the General Holmes Drive rail level crossing with a road underpass that links General Holmes Drive, Botany Road and Wentworth Avenue to improve the movement of rail freight and improve access to the Airport, Mascot and the eastern suburbs
- improving the Mill Pond Road intersections with General Holmes Drive and Botany Road to support future growth and access to the Airport
- widening Joyce Drive and General Holmes Drive between O'Riordan Street and Mill Pond Road to three lanes in each direction to improve traffic flow around the Airport and to Port Botany
- creating a new shared path to link to the existing cycle way on Wentworth Avenue to improve connections for pedestrians and cyclists, at Todd Reserve on Wentworth Avenue.

Airport West

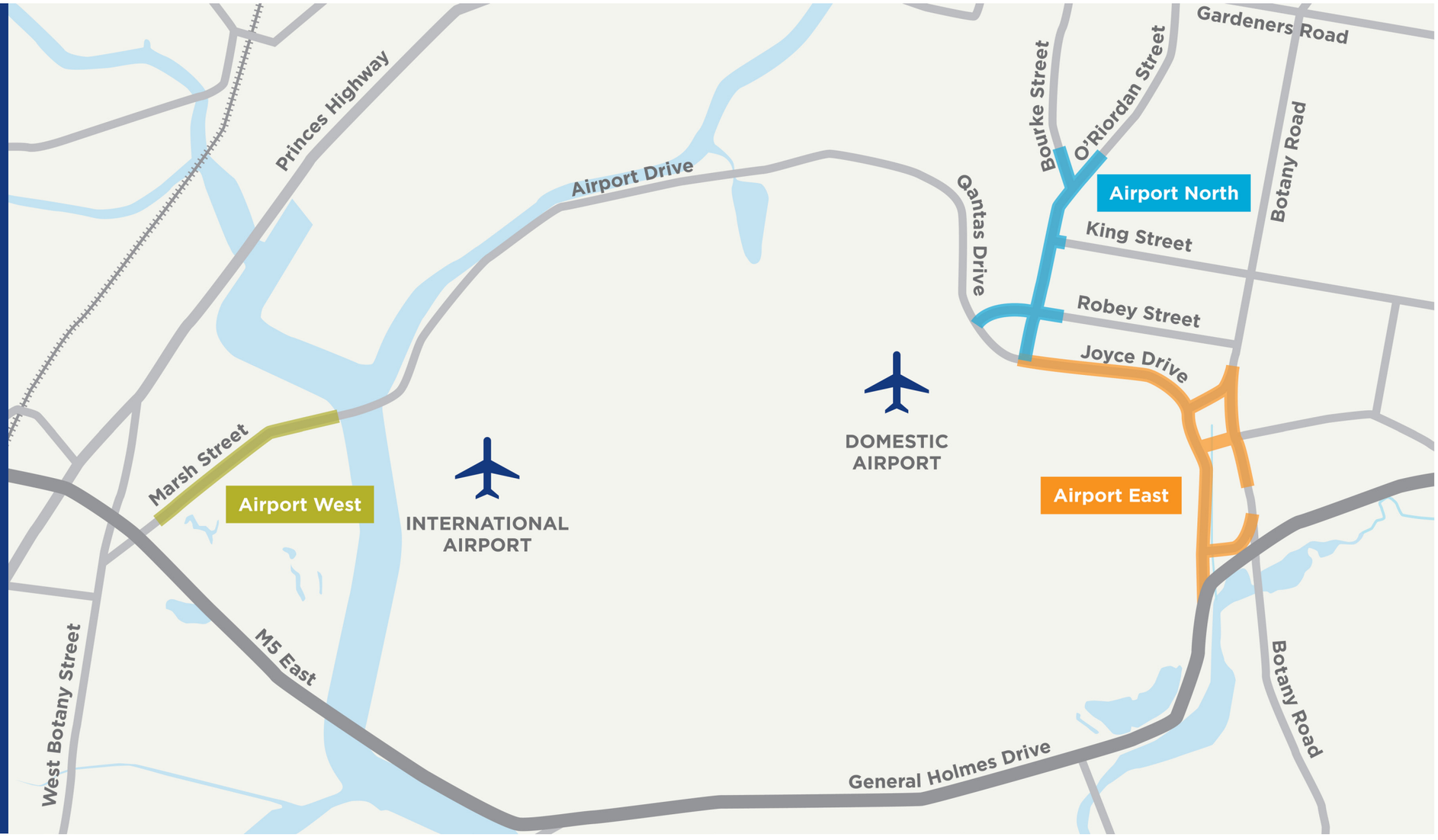
Transport for NSW completed the Marsh Street widening and the project. The project has increased traffic capacity and reduced congestion. Marsh Street is the primary connection to the Sydney Airport T1 international terminal and is a key access point for the M5 Motorway and Sydney's southern suburbs.

- widening Marsh Street to three lanes westbound between the Giovanni Brunetti Bridge and the M5 interchange, meaning Marsh Street would be three lanes in both directions
- providing a dedicated cycleway on the southern side of Marsh Street to connect the existing path on the bridge to the Eve Street cycleway
- providing a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Marsh Street and Flora Street
- minor widening of the existing eastbound and westbound lanes to provide wider, safer lanes for motorists.

New park corner of Botany Road and West Avenue, Airport East

Other work completed in the area:

- 24 hour clearways on Marsh Street between the M5 Motorway and the International Terminal to reduce congestion caused by parked cars and buses
- an Airport Traffic Coordination Committee was formed to carry out initiatives to ease congestion around the airport precinct and to prepare for busy peak periods
- an Airport Traffic Coordinator was appointed to work with the Transport Management Centre and Sydney Airport on managing airport traffic flow and responding to incidents immediately
- eight new 'do not queue' signs and improved line marking at the junction of the M5 Motorway and Marsh Street to help manage traffic flow. The new signs are installed at the approaches to the intersection to discourage drivers from blocking through traffic
- electronic message signs on Southern Cross Drive and South Dowling Street to guide motorists to use alternative routes as appropriate
- better matching and coordination of traffic lights and intersections inside and outside the airport to improve capacity and prevent traffic flow hold ups
- improved CCTV coverage of the precinct so the Traffic Management Centre is aware of any traffic issues
- new electronic message signs installed in the airport precinct to provide real time traffic information to drivers to help them plan their trip.



Airport North: milling road surface at O'Riordan Street

Airport North: utility work at the intersection of O'Riordan and King Street

Airport North: Excavation for the traffic sign installation, O'Riordan Street

Mascot intersection upgrades

The project involved the upgrade of five key intersections across Mascot, delivered in three stages. The upgrades help manage congestion and safety in one of Sydney's most intensively and diversely utilised areas and help address growing freight and travel demand, including to and from Port Botany and Sydney Airport. The fifth and final intersection was completed in October 2020.

Bourke Street and Coward Street

- Removed right turns at Coward Street (westbound) into Bourke Street (northbound)
- Removed right turns from Bourke Street (northbound) to Coward Street (eastbound) for all vehicles except buses.

Gardeners Road and Botany Road

- Extended Gardeners Road's eastbound right turn bay and constructed an additional right turn lane onto Botany Road (involved removal of 14 parking spaces in total)
- Reconfigured Gardeners Road's eastbound lanes and established a shared left/through lane, a dedicated through lane, and dual right turn lanes.

Kent Road and Ricketty Street

- Reconfigured the pedestrian crossing at Kent Road, on the southern side of the intersection, and provided a new, larger traffic island

Kent Road and Coward Street

- Installed a new left turn slip lane on Kent Road (southbound) into Coward Street (eastbound)
- Installed a new pedestrian crossing and new traffic island at Kent Road on the northern side of the intersection
- Installed a new pedestrian crossing at traffic lights at Coward Street, on the eastern side of the intersection.

Gardeners Road and O'Riordan Street

- Removed right turns for all vehicles from Gardeners Road (westbound) into O'Riordan Street (northbound)
- Removed left turns from Gardeners Road in both directions into O'Riordan Street for vehicles over 12.5m, and added a dedicated left turn lane on Gardeners Road (westbound).

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our delivery partner, Ventia Boral Amey on **1800 677 700** or **nswenquiries@vbajv.com.au**. You can find more information on the interactive portal on our website: **rms.nsw.gov.au/mascotintersections**

Sydney Gateway Project

Sydney Gateway is a new, above ground, toll-free road connection from the St Peters Interchange to the International and Domestic terminals, and surrounds.

The project has received planning approval from the NSW and Federal Governments. Transport for NSW will now appoint a contractor to build Sydney Gateway. Construction is expected to start in 2021.

You can subscribe to receive project updates from the Sydney Gateway team by visiting the projects interactive portal, by calling **1800 654 446** or emailing **sydneygateway@transport.nsw.gov.au**

Airport Precinct contact us

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

1300 862 844

Comms.airportprecinct@jhg.com.au

131 450

This document contains important information about road projects in your area. If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call the project team on 1300 862 844. The interpreter will then assist you with translation.

Sydney Gateway Project: Proposed routes shown, subject to change based on detailed design

The newly constructed slip lane from Kent Road into Coward Street opened on 5 August 2020

October 2020
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