

Identifying a corridor for the Outer Sydney Orbital

Transport for NSW | March 2018

What is the Outer Sydney Orbital corridor?

- Transport for NSW is identifying land for future transport infrastructure to support growth in Western Sydney and the planned Western Sydney Airport. This corridor of land is known as the Outer Sydney Orbital.
- The NSW Government is planning for the long term transport needs of Western Sydney by identifying and protecting a corridor of land for a future motorway and freight rail line.
- A recommended corridor has been identified for the Outer Sydney Orbital to connect Box Hill in the north and the Hume Motorway, near Menangle, in the south. Transport for NSW is now consulting with property owners, community and stakeholders on this area.
- The corridor will vary between 200 and 300 metres wide depending on landform and expected operational requirements.
- In the future, there will be further investigation to identify land to enable the Outer Sydney Orbital to provide connections between the Illawarra and the Central Coast.

Why are we consulting with the community?

- We are inviting property owners, community and stakeholders to provide feedback to help refine the recommended corridor.
- While the land may not be needed for some years, the NSW Government has to plan and protect the corridor to ensure land is available to deliver infrastructure in the future when it is needed.

When will land be acquired for the corridor?

- At this stage Transport for NSW is only identifying and protecting a corridor of land for a future motorway and freight rail line for the Outer Sydney Orbital.
- There is no intention or need to immediately acquire land or property for the corridor.
- Acquisition normally occurs closer to when the infrastructure is to be built, and this could be years or decades in the future.
- Once the corridor has been protected, existing uses of property can continue however there is the opportunity for property owners to consider owner-initiated early acquisition under the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991* before the land is needed by the government.

Why do we need to plan for a future motorway and freight rail line?

- The NSW Government is planning for Sydney's future.
- Transport for NSW has identified a recommended corridor of land in collaboration with the Greater Sydney Commission and Department of Planning and Environment to support population, housing, freight requirements with connections to Port Botany and job growth across Western Sydney.
- Over the next 20 years Sydney is expected to grow by more than one million people.
- By 2056, eight million people will call Sydney home, with 725,000 new homes to be built and 817,000 extra jobs generated.
- To meet this growth the NSW Government is identifying and protecting land to build transport infrastructure in the future.
- The future Outer Sydney Orbital corridor will:
 - Support the residents and businesses of Western Sydney and provide connections with other key centres.
 - Support the road and freight rail connections within Western Sydney and between regional centres.

- Provide for interchanges with major roads like Windsor Road, Richmond Road, the future Bells Line of Road – Castlereagh Connection, the Great Western Highway, the M4 Western Motorway, the future M12 Motorway, The Northern Road, Greendale Road and the Hume Motorway that will make it easier to move across the wider road network and access the Western Sydney Airport.
- The need to protect the Outer Sydney Orbital corridor has been identified in a number of government documents such as *Future Transport 2056* (2018), *District Plans* (2018), *Greater Sydney Region Plan* (2018), *Draft NSW Freight and Ports Plan* (2017) and *NSW Long Term Transport Masterplan* (2012).

When are the future motorway and freight rail line required?

- Over the next decades further detailed design and environmental assessment will be undertaken to allow a motorway and freight rail line to be built in the Outer Sydney Orbital corridor when required.
- Transport for NSW will continue to monitor growth and consult with the community and stakeholders as part of future planning for the motorway and freight rail corridor.

How will future operational impacts be addressed?

- As part of the corridor identification process, we are consulting with landowners, community and stakeholders on the recommended Outer Sydney Orbital corridor.
- Feedback from the consultation will help to refine the alignment of the corridor, and inform future technical investigations such as engineering, environmental and land use planning.
- The future infrastructure in the corridor will require detailed environmental assessment and approvals, and consideration of potential impacts prior to construction.

What are the corridor investigation timeframes?

- It is anticipated that a final corridor for the Outer Sydney Orbital between Box Hill and Menangle will be protected by late 2018.
- Corridor investigation between the Hume Highway near Menangle and the Illawarra is expected to commence in 2018.
- Corridor investigation between Box Hill in the north and the Central Coast is expected to commence in 2019.

What is corridor protection?

- Corridor protection is a process to identify and protect an area of land for future transport infrastructure. This will ensure that land is available in the future when it is needed.
- The benefit of corridor protection is that landowners, community and stakeholders have certainty of exactly where the motorway and freight rail line will be built in the future. This will allow affected community members, property owners and stakeholders time to explore available options without pressure.

How was the recommended corridor for the Outer Sydney Orbital identified?

- In 2015, we consulted on a study area for the Outer Sydney Orbital corridor between Box Hill in the north and the Hume Motorway near Menangle in the south.
- Community feedback has been considered together with key land use and environmental constraints to identify a recommended corridor. The key constraints which inform the corridor planning process include:
 - The integration of land use and transport planning.
 - Land forms, geology and soils.
 - The environment, conservation areas and ecological communities.
 - Watercourses and flooding.
 - Aboriginal and European heritage.
 - Visual and landscape values.
 - Housing, land uses and potential impacts on amenity.
 - Major utility infrastructure such as electricity, water, telecommunications and gas.

How will the recommended motorway and freight rail corridor be protected?

- Following consultation with landowners, community and stakeholders, the final corridor will be recommended to the Department of Planning and Environment for protection.
- If the recommended corridor is accepted for protection, property owners, and stakeholders looking to develop or purchase in the corridor will be alerted to the presence of the planned future transport infrastructure.
- Existing uses of the land will be able to continue until the land is required for the future infrastructure.

What community consultation has taken place?

- Community consultation for the Outer Sydney Orbital corridor was held between 6 June and 7 August 2015.
- There were six pop-up community information stalls and three community drop-in sessions which resulted in more than 1,200 submissions from the community consultation for the Outer Sydney Orbital and the Bells Line of Road – Castlereagh Connection study areas.
- Local councils, other state government agencies and industry stakeholders have also been consulted on the broad study area.
- The consultation was helpful in identifying issues such as:
 - Environmentally sensitive areas and environmental corridors to enable wildlife movements.
 - Rural amenity and significant heritage areas.
 - Existing housing and established communities.
 - Small scale farming and agricultural lands.
 - Opportunities and constraints associated with the South Creek corridor, The Northern Road, the Werrington Arterial and the site of the new Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek.
- Key feedback was that the community wanted certainty, and for the recommended corridor to be identified as soon as possible rather than exhibiting a short list of corridor options.

What feedback can I provide?

- We are inviting landowners, community and stakeholders to provide feedback to help refine the recommended corridor for the Outer Sydney Orbital.

How can I provide my feedback?

Please provide your comments and feedback:

- Using the interactive online map to see the location of the recommended corridor at transport.nsw.gov.au/corridors
- Email corridors@transport.nsw.gov.au
- Write **Corridor Investigation Office
Transport for NSW
PO Box K659
Haymarket NSW 1240**
- Call **1800 837 511**

Will submissions be made public?

- Following the consultation period, all feedback and submissions may be published on the project webpage transport.nsw.gov.au/corridors
- Please advise us if you don't want your submission to be made public.

What is the process following the consultation period?

- All comments and feedback received will be considered by the project team.
- This feedback together with the outcomes of the technical investigations will help refine the recommended corridor.
- The final corridor will then be recommended to the Department of Planning and Environment for protection.

Are there any biobanking schemes for the corridor identification process?

The NSW Government is investigating a range of opportunities to address the challenging task of balancing infrastructure planned across Western Sydney with conserving our biodiversity for the future. Discussions are underway to:

- Establish biobanking sites to improve, maintain or conserve important areas of biodiversity.
- Confirm biobanking agreements established with land owners who commit to enhancing and protecting important areas of biodiversity.
- Create biodiversity credits for managing, improving or maintaining environmentally sensitive areas to offset the impact of development on biodiversity.
 - As part of this work there will be further opportunities identified to protect our biodiversity for the future. Information about biobanking schemes is available on the Office of Environment and Heritage website at environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking

transport.nsw.gov.au

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