

M12 Motorway

Community update

May 2025



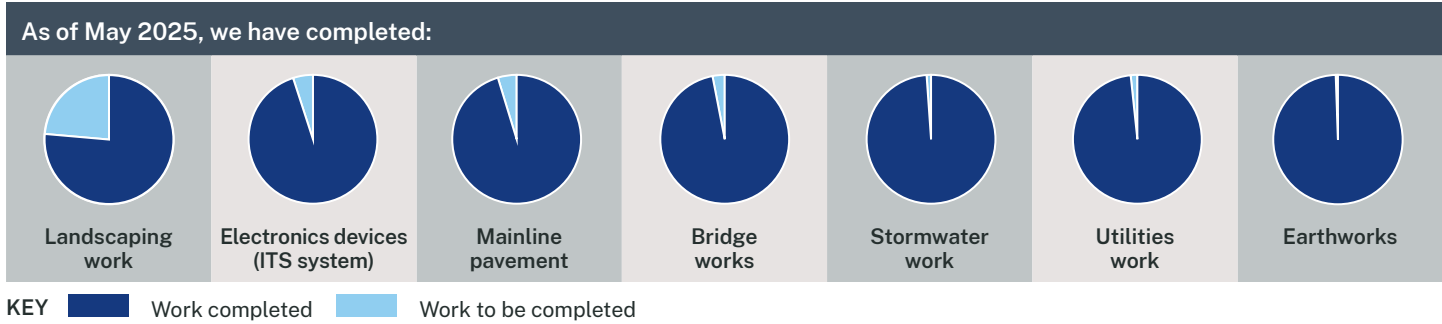
Australian Government



Looking east on the toll free M12 Motorway

The Australian and NSW governments are securing a brighter future for Western Sydney’s residents, visitors and workers by delivering the new M12 Motorway.

The almost complete M12 Motorway is shaping up to its final appearance with all the concrete pours complete and our aboriginal art strategy coming to life. Take a look inside to see some of our key achievements.



Transport for NSW acknowledges the Dharug people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past and present.

Colours of country

Four colourful leaf canopies were installed in March 2025, creating cultural landmarks along the shared path, adding to the three already installed.

Once complete, the M12 Motorway will feature a total of nine eucalypt leaf canopies spread across the shared user path. Created by Aboriginal artists Barry Gunther (Gandangara), Jasmine Seymour (Dharug) and Jamie Eastwood (Ngemba/Dharug) in co-design with Indigenous design studio, Balarinji, each canopy will be carefully positioned to create inviting rest areas.

Six small canopies will provide shade to seating areas surrounded by greenery at the various rest stops, while three large canopies will extend over the shared path allowing bike users and pedestrians to move beneath them.

The colours of the small eucalypt leaf canopies represent each of the Western Sydney Aboriginal six seasons and the larger canopies will act as Welcome to Country landmarks, reflecting local Aboriginal protocols with a theme of interconnectedness.

These four newly installed canopies were fabricated in Rutherford NSW, painted in Kings Park, and fitted out in Wetherill Park before being transported to site for installation. A 100-tonne crane was used to lift and secure each canopy onto a 2m x 2m footing, ensuring long term stability.



Large 'teal and blue' leaf canopy being delivered to site



Blending sustainability with cultural storytelling



Lifting the 'green and orange' smaller leaf canopy to one of the rest areas

Elizabeth Drive hits a new milestone



Complete - Elizabeth Drive and Badgerys Creek Road intersection

Elizabeth Drive has moved one step closer into transforming to a four-lane major connecting road.

During a weekend closure in April, all final lanes were opened at the Elizabeth Drive and Badgerys Creek Road intersection. Traffic travelling westbound was also moved onto a new lane on Elizabeth Drive.

This significant milestone will allow us to finish building the last remaining sections of Elizabeth Drive to a new dual carriageway over 2 kilometres, creating a streamlined connection between Badgerys Creek Road and Elizabeth Drive to improve traffic flow and connectivity in the region.

As Elizabeth Drive transitions to its final alignment, the M12 Motorway is a step forward in enhancing Western Sydney's infrastructure to support future needs. The new lanes and intersection will support safer, more efficient travel for drivers and pedestrians along this critical east-west corridor.

Staff dig in for tree planting day

All hands were on deck with around 90 native trees planted by staff from the M12 Motorway project team on 18 March 2025.

Project Director for the M12, Deanne Forrest, said the event was a great way for staff to make a meaningful contribution to the biodiversity of the area. "When we started construction in 2022, it was important for us to leave a legacy. Planting these trees will help regreen the area to the benefit of the local community."

As the trees grow, they will be visible from the shared user path on the southern side of Elizabeth Drive providing much needed habitat and shade for local wildlife.

This initiative of many, highlights the project's commitment to environmental sustainability and the preservation of our native flora and fauna.



Project Director, Deanne Forrest and Deputy Project Director, Rik Smit plant a Christmas Bush

18,500 trees will be planted across the motorway.



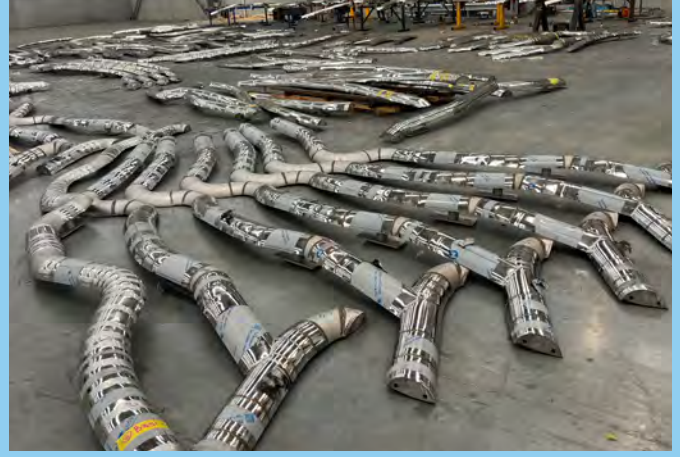
M12 Project Manager gives the thumbs up



M12 staff happily planting a prickly-leaved paperbark



The Great Emu in the Sky, looking west towards The Northern Road



Signature sticks at the Chess Engineering warehouse

The Great Emu in the Sky takes shape

Spotting *The Great Emu in the Sky* will soon become easier with the construction of the largest Dharug sculpture in Western Sydney now underway.

Already complete is the galvanised steel geodesic structure that will hold the striking Great Emu in the Sky sculpture that will tell the Dharug Dreaming story of the Great Emu Constellation.

Currently we're installing the stainless steel signature sticks, so that by day, the sculpture will represent the emu nest. These signature sticks reference the ridge lines, silcrete, sightlines and waterways of Dharug Country.

At night, special LED lighting will bring two distinct emu forms to life, each visible from certain viewpoints: the emu sitting on the nest and the emu in the night sky, mirroring how the Great Emu constellation changes throughout the Aboriginal six seasons.

The sculpture was co-created by the M12 Aboriginal artist cohort: Danny Eastwood, Jamie Eastwood, Danielle Mate, Jasmine Seymour, Leanne Watson and Balarinji studio, and was conceived by Balarinji lead artist on the work, Tim Moriarty.

The Great Emu in the Sky sculpture is expected to be complete by mid-late 2025.

Lookout for Illegal dumping

Waste that's illegally dumped within the Badgerys Creek, Kemps Creek and Luddenham areas has increased and poses many risks to our community. Help by disposing of waste safely and correctly. If you spot it, make a report on the RID website ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au



Contact us



Project Infoline **1800 517 155**



m12motorway@transport.nsw.gov.au



nswroads.work/m12

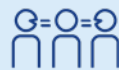


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