NorthConnex is a nine kilometre tunnel which will link the M1 Pacific Motorway at Wahroonga to the Hills M2 Motorway at West Pennant Hills.

For the latest information about work in your area, visit www.northconnex.com.au

The number one question we are asked is “when will the tunnel be open?”

Although we can’t provide an exact date at this time we are pleased to say we are making great progress towards opening and every opportunity is being pursued to open the tunnel to traffic as soon as possible.

Projects of this size and scale are extremely complex. More than 300 specialist trades, designers, engineers and project managers are working together to build an asset that will provide motorists with a safer and more efficient journey. There are also final tests to be performed before the tunnel opens to traffic.

The team is extremely excited about the coming months. As soon as we have an opening date we will advise the community so you can experience your first drive through the new tunnel.

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- New in-tunnel lighting features announced
- Gantries installed on Pennant Hills Road
- Update on testing and commissioning progress
- NorthConnex response to COVID-19

New in-tunnel lighting feature—backlit blue tree silhouettes
Acoustic sheds at the Trelawney (a) and Wilson (b) compounds have now been removed. The compounds are being converted into tunnel support facilities for operation.

The temporary bulkhead which was used for temporary construction ventilation has been removed from the tunnel. The tunnel's permanent air systems have now been energised.

The fire deluge system (high-flow fire sprinklers) is being tested in the tunnel. In the case of a vehicle fire, heat detectors will immediately trigger the fire deluge system in that area to put out the fire.

The team has completed landscaping work at Pearces Corner, Hewitt Ave and Aaron Place with planting also underway at Eastbourne Avenue and northern and southern ventilation facilities.
Two regulatory gantries have been installed to monitor trucks and buses using Pennant Hills Road once NorthConnex opens. More information about the regulation and gantries is provided on page four.

Benson Close and Aaron Place footpaths have been completed and re-opened for the benefit of local residents. Both were closed for about a year due to project work.

Final lane alignment work is being carried on the M2 ramps to make space for the new tunnel entries and exits.

The traffic control room at the Motorway Control Centre (MCC) has been fitted out with testing underway. The MCC is where our Traffic Control Room operators keep an eye on the tunnel, monitoring traffic and incidents.
In-tunnel lighting

In an Australian first, NorthConnex is incorporating a series of contemporary internal lighting features to keep drivers engaged as they travel through the nine kilometre tunnel.

Backlit silhouettes of native birds, trees (see page one image) and starry skies will soon feature in motorists’ journeys between the Hills M2 Motorway and M1 Pacific Motorway. The feature lighting and panelling has been placed strategically along the tunnel alignment to improve road safety.

International research has demonstrated that in tunnels, it is important to provide subtle stimulants to keep drivers alert and focussed.

The community can view the in tunnel lighting designs by visiting northconnex.com.au.

Two new gantries have been installed

Late last year the team started constructing two new 33 metre long and 10 metre high gantries on Pennant Hills Road, located between the M1 and M2, to monitor truck and bus movements as part of a regulation being implemented by the NSW Government.

The regulation requires trucks and buses (over 12.5 metres in length or over 2.8 metres in height) to use the NorthConnex tunnel once it opens unless they have a genuine destination accessed via Pennant Hills Road.

We are pleased to say that the work to install the gantries is almost complete after successfully implementing two separate complete road closures of Pennant Hills Road. We also want to thank the community for their patience during this time.

For more information on the Pennant Hills Road truck and bus regulation, visit nswroads.work/phr, email northconnex@rms.nsw.gov.au or call 1800 997 057.

Tiny Tunnellers program wraps up

The popular Tiny Tunnellers program, designed to improve the uptake of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects in schools, has wrapped up after more than three years.

The NorthConnex funded program reached more than 2,000 children through schools, after-school care centres, scout groups and NorthConnex-led school holiday programs.

We thank the community for their support. It’s been a pleasure for our team to deliver this program.

Commissioning and testing continues

Over the coming months, the team will be continuing to carry out thousands of tests to ensure every system, piece of equipment and structure is ready to go before we open.

In recent weeks our tunnel ventilation systems have been turned on with jet fans providing ventilation to our tunnels, and our Motorway Control Centre operators are undergoing extensive training of both automated and manually controlled systems to ensure the team respond appropriately to every possible situation.

COVID-19 impact on NorthConnex

The NorthConnex project takes the health and wellbeing of the community and its workers very seriously. The project team has implemented a number of proactive measures to address the potential impact of COVID-19 while ensuring the continuation of its project delivery.

The measures are in-line with the latest advice issued by the Australian Government and NSW Health. Some of these measures include:

- Using email, mail, phone calls and video conferencing to communicate with residents and limiting door knocking where possible
- Limiting any necessary face to face meetings to 15 minutes and maintaining a 1.5 metre distance
- No shaking of hands
- Temporarily closing the Community Information Centre located at 118 Yarrara Road, Pennant Hills, 2120.

The NorthConnex project will continue to actively monitor and assess the situation to ensure appropriate measures are implemented to keep its workers safe and well. We will continue to update the community as the situation changes.

More questions? Contact us

For further information on NorthConnex please don’t hesitate to contact members of the project team by:

Phone: 1800 997 057
Email: enquiries@northconnex.com.au
Website: www.northconnex.com.au
Mail: Locked Bag 1001, West Pennant Hills NSW 2125
Visit: NorthConnex community information centre, 118 Yarrara Road, Pennant Hills. Monday to Wednesday from 9am to 1pm. (Currently closed due to COVID-19.)