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Media Release

New lane to improve M2 traffic flow

Transurban today announced plans to improve westbound traffic flow in the afternoon peak and reduce travel times on the M2.

Transurban, owner and manager of Hills M2, will open a new third lane on the westbound carriageway between Lane Cove Road and Beecroft Road (see attached map).

Head of Hills M2, Mr John Collier said "construction works are expected to begin in late January and to be completed in February.

"We know our customers are frustrated by this major traffic pinch point as they make their way home. Four on-ramps on this 5 km section of the motorway create a lot of merging and congestion in the afternoon peak. Opening this third lane is designed to reduce merging, improve safety and significantly improve traffic flow."

Mr Collier said the changes would also help ensure the westbound section of the motorway works smoothly when the Lane Cove Tunnel opens. M2 traffic is expected to increase as the Lane Cove Tunnel ramps up over the next two years.

The third lane will be created by changes to lane marking and use of the breakdown lane. Transurban will advise motorists of these changes using signage, newspaper advertising, letterbox drops and information on the M2 website.

The speed limit westbound will be 80km per hour from the beginning of the M2 to Terry's Creek and 70km per hour in the Norfolk Tunnel. After the Beecroft Road exit the speed limit will revert to 100 km per hour.

Mr Collier said "This is another tangible example of Transurban's ability to work with Government to provide real improvements for our customers.

"Last year we removed six toll booths and introduced express tolling lanes so tag customers can travel through the toll plaza at 80 km an hour - without the need to stop or slow down at boom gates.

"This is the next step in Transurban's plans to make real improvements to the M2. Transurban is also developing plans to physically widen this section of the motorway. A program for these works will be investigated by Transurban and the RTA as a matter of priority early in 2007" Mr Collier said.

An alternative route has been designed for cyclists, who for safety reasons will not be able to use this 5 km westbound section of the motorway. Transurban and the RTA will seek local council endorsement to finalise this route and the location of signage for cyclists.

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New lane marked in black

