

Pacific Highway and Mowbray Road Intersection upgrade

From the RTA's letter to householders:

This \$4 million project is fully funded by the NSW Government to improve the operational efficiency of Sydney's traffic network.

The intersection upgrade, scheduled for completion by mid 2011, will reduce traffic delays and improve safety for motorists and pedestrians.

The key features of the project are:

- *Dual right turn lane from Pacific Highway northbound into Mowbray Road (eastbound).*
- *Dedicated left turn lane from Mowbray Road eastbound into Pacific Highway (northbound).*
- *Widening the road on the eastern side of the Pacific Highway to the south of the intersection (Sydney Water land), to allow three traffic lanes southbound to be maintained. This road widening will require the removal of several trees and shrubs, including four large eucalypts. However, this area will be landscaped as part of this work and a new footpath will be constructed.*

Robert Newman reports:

The intersection of a national route with a major state road on the edge of a residential area will always involve a tradeoff between allowing traffic to flow through and area and local residents to access their homes. Conversely it is also a tradeoff between through-traffic sticking to main roads or taking rat-runs through suburban streets.

Eastbound on Mowbray Road we have two entry points into Artarmon: Hampden Road and Sydney Street, westbound we also have Elizabeth Street. Southbound on Pacific Highway, we have Mowbray/Hampden or Rimmington Street.

Anyone trying to turn right into Mowbray Road from the Pacific Highway will know that this can be a demanding task, with traffic queues filling the approximately 75 metres of turning lane and blocking the Highway's right hand lane - hence the plan to introduce a second turning lane northbound.

But it's not all good news. With the introduction of a dedicated left turn lane from Mowbray road into Pacific Highway (northbound) comes the loss of the right hand lane that currently becomes the left turn lane into Hampden Road. Instead we will have to share this lane with traffic continuing down Mowbray Road instead of bypassing all the queued up traffic. ■