

November 2019

Pacific Motorway (M1)

Varsity Lakes (Exit 85) to Tugun (Exit 95) Upgrade

South East Queensland is one of the most sought after places to live in Australia and the region is expected to grow by almost two million people over the next 25 years. With an enviable lifestyle, great schools and universities, and a strong, diverse economy, the Pacific Motorway (M1) upgrade will contribute to the creation of almost one million jobs between 2016 and 2041.

The Pacific Motorway (M1) is a vital transport link between Queensland and the southern states, carrying interstate freight, tourist and commuter traffic. The section between Varsity Lakes (Exit 85) and Tugun (Exit 95) carries around 90,000 vehicles per day, and is frequently congested during both weekday and weekend peak periods and when traffic incidents occur. Traffic demand for this section of the motorway is growing and by 2026 is expected to exceed 100,000 vehicles each day.

The Australian and Queensland governments have been progressively upgrading the M1 over the last decade in line with the *Pacific Motorway Nerang to Tugun Master Plan (PMNT)*. Various interchange improvements were carried out between 2008 and 2010 and motorway widening to six lanes between Nerang (Exit 73) and Worongary (Exit 77) was completed in 2010 and Worongary (Exit 77) to Mudgeeraba (Exit 79) six-laning in 2014. The Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes section is currently under construction and is tracking for completion by mid-2020.

About the project

The Varsity Lakes to Tugun (VL2T) upgrade includes:

- widening 10 kilometres of the M1 between Varsity Lakes (Exit 85) and Tugun (Exit 95) to a minimum of three lanes in each direction
- enhancements to all entry and exit ramps at interchanges between Varsity Lakes (Exit 85) and Tugun (Exit 95), with significant improvements made to:
 - Burleigh Heads (Exit 87)
 - Tallebudgera (Exit 89)
 - Palm Beach (Exit 92)
- widening the Tallebudgera Creek and Currumbin Creek bridges
- constructing a new western service road between Palm Beach (Exit 92) and Tallebudgera (Exit 89) and a new bridge over Tallebudgera Creek connecting the new western service road
- installing Smart Motorway Technologies to improve travel time reliability between Nerang and Tugun
- preserving the corridor for heavy rail
- installing bike and pedestrian paths to improve active transport connectivity.

Detailed design is now underway for the VL2T upgrade, with \$1.03 billion committed to progress the upgrade to construction, based on joint funding from the Australian and Queensland governments.



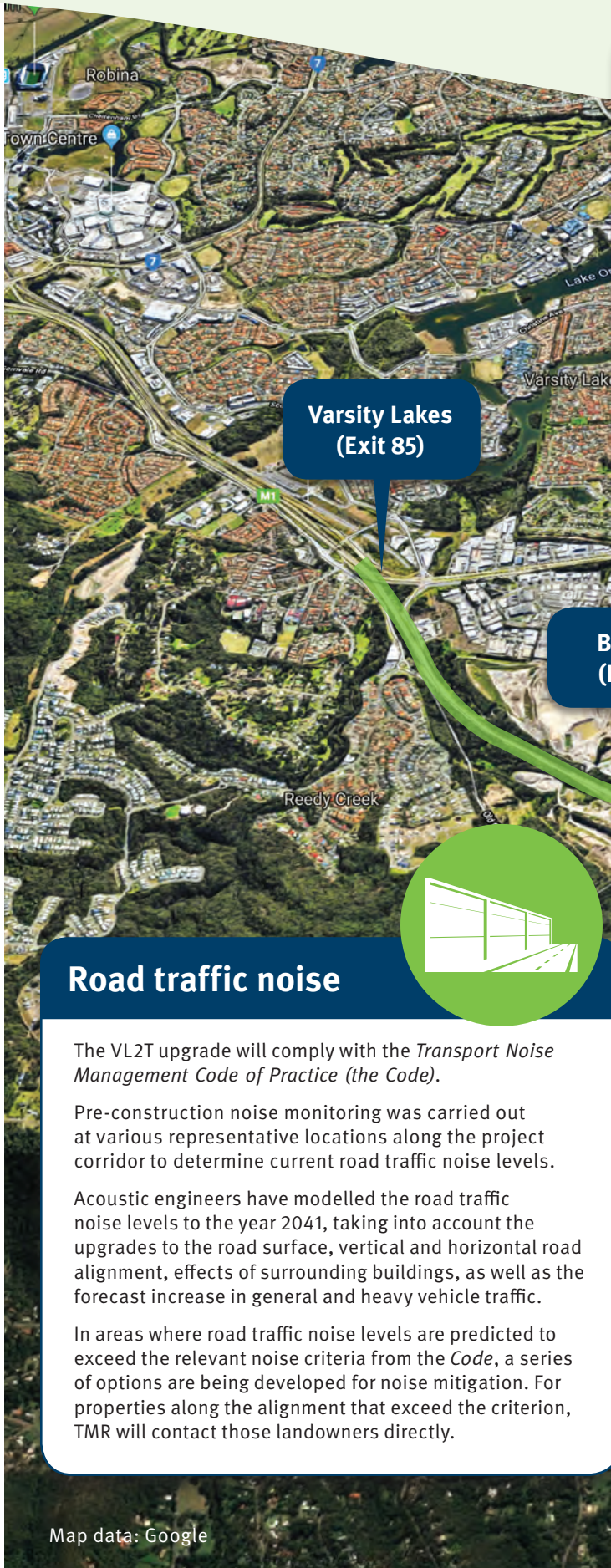
Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

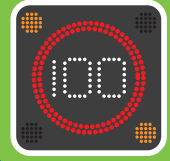


Queensland Government

Varsity Lakes to Tugun – key features



Installation of smart technologies



Smart Motorway technologies will help to reduce ‘stop-start’ travel, improve safety and provide more predictable travel times for motorists. Smart Motorway initiatives include:

- ramp signal metering and variable speed limit signs
- additional CCTV cameras
- vehicle detection equipment to measure and calculate traffic flow and speed
- a range of variable message signs (VMS) to provide motorists with relevant information regarding traffic conditions associated with the M1 and the surrounding transport network.

Varsity Lakes
(Exit 85)

Burleigh
(Exit 87)

Tallebudgera
(Exit 89)

Road traffic noise



The VL2T upgrade will comply with the *Transport Noise Management Code of Practice (the Code)*.

Pre-construction noise monitoring was carried out at various representative locations along the project corridor to determine current road traffic noise levels.

Acoustic engineers have modelled the road traffic noise levels to the year 2041, taking into account the upgrades to the road surface, vertical and horizontal road alignment, effects of surrounding buildings, as well as the forecast increase in general and heavy vehicle traffic.

In areas where road traffic noise levels are predicted to exceed the relevant noise criteria from the *Code*, a series of options are being developed for noise mitigation. For properties along the alignment that exceed the criterion, TMR will contact those landowners directly.

Sustainability



The Australian and Queensland Governments are committed to managing the design and construction of the VL2T upgrade in a way that considers environmental and social outcomes and supports an ecologically sustainable infrastructure development.

The project will submit for a formal sustainability rating and verification by the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA) at the completion of the detailed design phase and at construction completion.

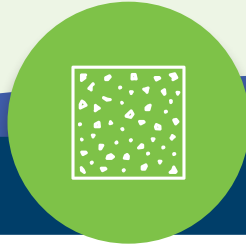
Environmental and cultural measures



TMR is committed to managing its road network in a manner that enhances environmental outcomes for natural, social and built environments. VL2T environmental measures include:

- wildlife fauna surveys in the construction corridor to determine animal habitation
- flora surveys to identify protected and endangered species
- cultural heritage assessments and working alongside Traditional Owner groups
- waterways health monitoring before, during and after construction
- improved fish passages
- koala protection, including roadside fencing and a dedicated crossing under the motorway connecting the Burleigh to Springbrook Biodiversity Corridor.

Pavement



The VL2T road surface is currently proposed to consist of Stone Mastic Asphalt (SMA), which is a gap graded asphalt surface mix. Benefits of SMA include:

- good skid resistance and longer service life than open graded asphalt
- suitable for heavy vehicles and higher traffic volumes
- lower road traffic noise than concrete surfaces
- economical in the long term, improving rehabilitation options with the ability to extend its overall service life
- stable and durable under a range of weather conditions.

Active transport



Bike riding and pedestrian provisions will be included as part of the new western service road between Tallebudgera and Palm Beach interchanges. All intersections at each of the interchanges will include modifications or enhancement to improve the amenity for both pedestrians and bike riders. These improvements will help encourage more people to ride, walk and use other modes of active transport more often.

Every trip made with active transport is a win for everyone, as it moves people towards healthier, more efficient and sustainable choices, reduces congestion and leaves room on our roads for freight, business and other trips.





What to expect

Detailed investigations for the VL2T upgrade are currently underway with survey, geotechnical and environmental assessments being undertaken. Early works on the VL2T upgrade are expected to begin late this year with full construction commencing on completion of the Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes upgrade. The VL2T upgrade is being designed and will be delivered in sections:

- Varsity Lakes to Burleigh
- Burleigh to Palm Beach
- Palm Beach to Tugun.

More information about each section will be shared with the community as the design progresses.

Have your say

The community is invited to provide feedback and subscribe to the free SMS and email service to remain informed about the VL2T upgrade. To register for these services, or for further information, contact the project team on the below details.

Freecall: 1800 799 824
(during business hours, 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday)

Email: VL2T@tmr.qld.gov.au

Website: www.tmr.qld.gov.au

Post: Department of Transport and Main Roads
PO Box 442, Nerang QLD 4211

* freecall number within Australia

Project timeline

2001-2007

Consultation on the Pacific Motorway Nerang to Tugun Master Plan

2016-2018

Varsity Lakes to Tugun planning and business case approved

MID-LATE 2019

- Design underway
- Geotechnical and road surveys
- Environmental and Cultural Heritage surveys
- Early works to relocate service utilities above and underground
- Community consultation on the Varsity Lakes to Burleigh section

EARLY 2020

- Early works
- Community consultation on Burleigh to Palm Beach and Palm Beach to Tugun sections

MID-2020

Construction starts on the Varsity Lakes to Burleigh section

