



MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW BRINGS FORWARD CONGESTION BUSTING MOTORWAY PROJECTS

The announcement that the NSW Government move to immediately begin scoping the delivery of the WestConnex project recommended by Infrastructure NSW is excellent news for the state's economy, taxpayers and motorists says [Infrastructure Partnerships Australia](http://www.infrastructure.org.au) – the nation's peak infrastructure body.

"Sydney's missing motorways have been sitting on the shelf for decades" said IPA Chief Executive, Brendan Lyon.

"New South Wales requires real progress, to deliver real projects. Today's announcement, backed by \$1.8 billion in State funding, should provide real impetus to start sorting out Sydney's congestion quagmire.

"The WestConnex is critical, because it connects Sydney's port and airport into the state economy.

"Everyone can see that Sydney is drowning in freight and passenger congestion.

"The morning peak starts earlier each year as more cars try to fit onto the congested network.

"Congestion increases the cost of goods, erodes the competitiveness of the State economy and costs commuters valuable time away from their families.

"The M4 East motorway has been planned since 1951, but until now, it has only existed on the pages of the street directory.

"One of the reasons that the M4 East and M5 East duplication have been so hard to deliver is because previous governments made short sighted and poor decisions.

"The M4 East corridor was protected in 1951, but sold off in the 1970s by the Wran Government, in response to localised opposition.

"The M5 East was only finished a decade ago. The contractors offered to build an extra lane each way for less than \$70 million, but the government rejected it. Duplicating the project is now estimated to cost \$5.2 billion, substantially higher than the \$70 million it could have cost.

"It's in everyone's interest to see these projects advance to delivery.

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