

4.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER IMPACT

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4.12 PRECINCT 11: HUME HIGHWAY TO BEECH ROAD

4.12.1 Existing Landscape Character

The adjoining landuse in this precinct is entirely residential, including the suburbs of Casula to the south east and Lurnea and Prestons to the north west. The Motorway returns to two lanes in both directions with a grass median. There are small groupings of scattered shrubs in the median, with tree planting at De Meyrick Avenue and Kurrajong Road. Wide verges with Cumberland Plain Woodland is located west of the Hume Highway. 250 metres west of this intersection, the noise wall abuts the carriageways for the next 300 metres. On the eastern side, a large area of land is currently being used for the storage of roadside refuse, and is proposed for a future service centre. On the western side is a large embankment vegetated with Cumberland Plain Woodland through to Kurrajong Road with a section of noise wall abutting the carriageway, either side of De Meyrick Avenue. On the eastern side, the noise wall abuts the carriageway from Graham Avenue to Kurrajong Road. Cumberland Plain Woodland vegetation sits behind the wall and the residential property boundaries. The remaining section of the precinct is quite open with wide, sparsely vegetated embankments to the approaches to the M7 interchange. There are a number of existing sedimentation basins in this precinct. These are unseen from the Motorway.

4.12.2 The Project

It is proposed to infill the existing grass median to accommodate the new eastbound and westbound lanes. The lanes would be separated by a concrete safety barrier typically with a 1.2 metre wide paved median, delineated by line marking.

The bridge over De Meyrick Avenue would be infilled to accommodate the new lanes. Following that, the existing de Meyrick Avenue underpass structure would then be progressively reconstructed across the



Illustrations 57 - 59:

Character images of the Hume Highway to Beech Road precinct: view west from the western side of the Hume Highway, wide vegetated embankments, wide verges adjacent to the eastbound carriageway

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full width of the two Motorway carriageways.

One new variable message sign (VMS) may be provided in the eastbound direction between Kurrajong Road and the Hume Highway.

Water quality/detention basin works are proposed within the road reserve on the southern side of the Motorway, immediately west of the Hume Highway interchange. A second water quality/detention basin is to be provided within the road reserve on the northern side of the Motorway approximately one kilometre west of the Hume Highway. A third basin is to be provided on the northern side of the Motorway (within the road reserve) immediately east of the Beech Road overpass. New Motorway operations management and control systems (OMCS) conduits and cables are to be installed underground along the entire southern side of the Motorway, within the road reserve, typically in the verge of the westbound carriageway. At underpass locations in this precinct (namely, De Meyrick Avenue) the crossing of the local road/s by the conduits/cables will be achieved by the installation of four galvanised steel conduits fixed to the outside face of the existing southern parapet of the westbound Motorway underpass bridge.

4.12.3 Landscape Character Assessment

Sensitivity

Due to the landscape character of this precinct being predominately a motorway with a grassed median with good groupings of tree and shrub planting, as described in 4.12.1, the precinct will have moderate sensitivity to the proposed changes.

Magnitude

The proposed upgrade in this precinct accommodates new eastbound and westbound lanes within the existing grassed median. This would increase the paved surface by approximately 25%. Additional line marking modifications would be required, and the existing wire rope barrier would be replaced with a concrete safety barrier. A number of native shrubs and small trees would be removed from the existing median. The infill of the De Meyrick Avenue bridge would have minor overshadowing effects. The VMS is another element in the landscape and may cause the loss of some shrub and tree planting to provide clear sightlines. The sedimentation basins are unlikely to be visible.

Overall, the qualitative assessment indicates that the magnitude of the proposed upgrade in this precinct would potentially be moderate due to the loss of the grassed median and associated tree and shrub planting.

Landscape Character Impact

The qualitative assessment indicates that the landscape character impact of the proposed upgrade in this precinct is likely to be moderate due to the moderate sensitivity to change of the precinct and the moderate magnitude of the works.

Precinct 11: Hume Highway to Beech Road	
Sensitivity	Moderate
Magnitude	Moderate
Landscape Character Impact	Moderate

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