

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER IMPACT 4.0

4.4 PRECINCT 3: SALT PAN CREEK TO GIBSON AVENUE

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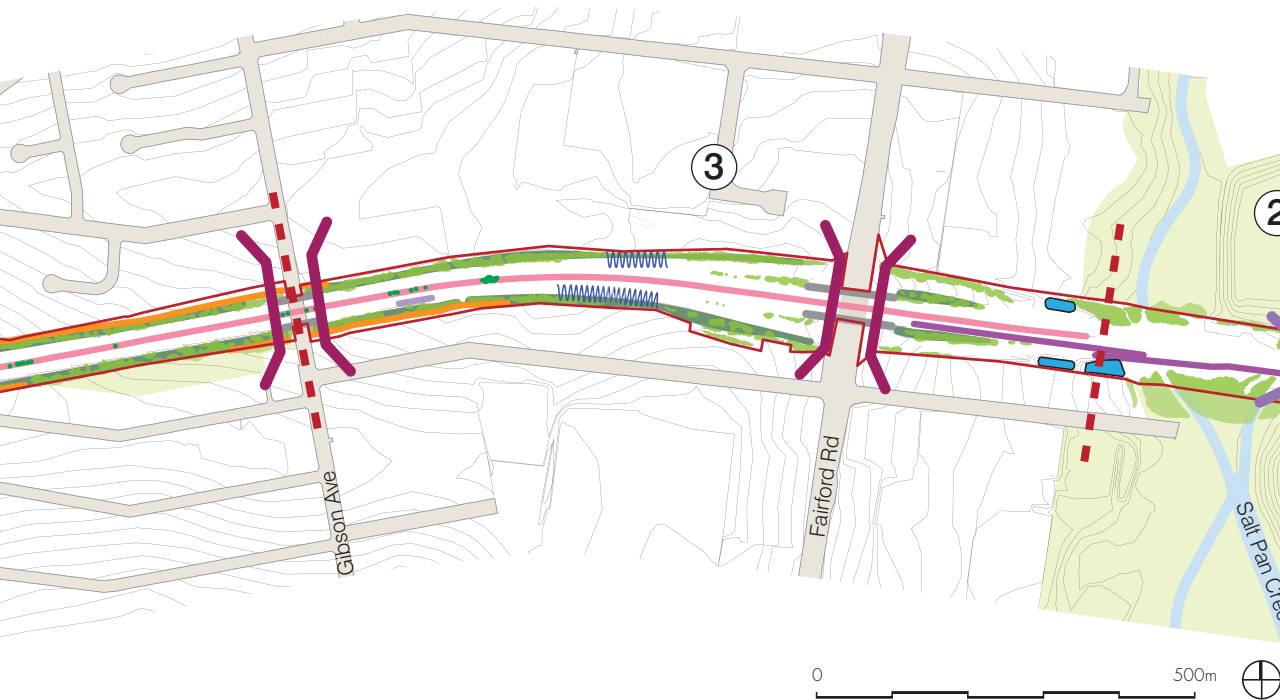


Illustration 28:
Precinct 3: Existing situation overlaid with proposed upgrade works.
Refer to page 29 for Legend (plan supplied by HBO+EMTB)

4.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER IMPACT

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4.5 PRECINCT 4: GIBSON AVENUE TO QUEEN STREET

4.5.1 Existing Landscape Character

This section of the Motorway runs through the residential suburb of Revesby. The Motorway consists of one eastbound and one westbound carriageway containing two lanes each. There is a central grass median with groupings of shrub planting. A group of trees have been planted in the median on either side of River Road.

West of Gibson Avenue, the Motorway is lower than the surrounding landscape. The embankments are planted with Cumberland Plain Woodland vegetation, with a noise wall to the top. From River Road to Queen Street, the Motorway sits slightly above the surrounding landscape. Noise walls, protected by a w-beam barrier, are adjacent to the carriageway. Cumberland Plain Woodland vegetation is planted between the noise wall and Gordon Parker Street to the north, and the residential property boundary fence to the south.

The River Road interchange has on and off ramps for both eastbound and westbound traffic. Toll booths are located to the on and off ramps on the eastern side of the interchange.

4.5.2 The Project

The new eastbound and westbound lanes would be located within the existing grass median. They would be divided by a new concrete safety barrier typically with a 1.2 metre wide paved median on both sides, delineated by line marking. It is proposed to widen the bridge over Queen Street by infilling between the existing eastbound and westbound lanes.

Under River Road, the existing w-beam guardrails are to be removed and concrete safety barriers would be installed to protect the existing central piers.



Illustrations 29 - 31:

Character images of the Gibson Avenue to Queen Street precinct: View west showing embankments vegetated with Cumberland Plain Woodland, vegetated median, and the noise wall abutting the carriageway

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER IMPACT 4.0

4.5 PRECINCT 4: GIBSON AVENUE TO QUEEN STREET

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It is proposed to enhance the planting at the River Road interchange to a 'parkland' style to differentiate it from the overall bushland character of rest of the corridor.

One new variable message sign is proposed for eastbound traffic west of Gibson Avenue.

A water quality/detention basin is to be provided within the road reserve, on the southern side of the Motorway, between the Queen Street underpass and Ely Street.

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, Queen Street) 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.

4.5.3 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 4.5.1, 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 Queen Street 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. There may be some minor modifications to the existing planting at the River Road interchange. This would slightly change the character of the interchange.

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 4: Gibson Avenue to Queen Street	
Sensitivity	Moderate
Magnitude	Moderate
Landscape Character Impact	Moderate