

6.0 Consultation

This chapter outlines the consultation undertaken to date in relation to the proposed modification of the Westlink M7. It identifies who has been consulted, how the consultation was carried out, the issues raised and how those issues have been addressed. This chapter also outlines future consultation that will be undertaken for the proposed modification.

Table 6-1 sets out the SEARs relevant to consultation and identifies where these requirements have been met.

Table 6-1 SEARs - Consultation

Desired Performance Outcome	SEAR	Where addressed within the Modification Report
Consultation The modification is developed with meaningful and effective engagement during project design and delivery.	1. The project must be informed by consultation, including with relevant local, State and Commonwealth government agencies, infrastructure and service providers, special interest groups, affected landowners, businesses, and the community.	Section 6.4
	2. The consultation process must be documented and include information on how the modification has responded to the inputs received.	Section 6.4
	3. The timing and type of community consultation proposed during the design and delivery of the modification must be described, including the mechanisms for community feedback, the mechanisms for keeping the community informed, and procedures for complaints handling and resolution.	Section 6.3, Section 6.4.3 and Section 6.5.

6.1 Objectives of consultation

The objectives of consultation for the proposed modification of the Westlink M7 are to:

- Raise awareness of the intent to undertake the proposed modification
- Provide quality stakeholder engagement to build understanding of the scope and potential impacts from the proposed modification
- Provide opportunities for stakeholder feedback, involvement, collaboration and participation in consultation and engagement events
- Recognise the diverse communication needs and tailor information to be accessible to relevant stakeholder groups
- Proactively establish and maintain communication with stakeholders, providing relevant, timely, and accurate information
- Provide a central point of contact for the communication of information
- Establish channels for two-way communication with stakeholders and methods to evaluate feedback received
- Support stakeholder communication as a priority issue, demonstrating a commitment to effective stakeholder engagement.

6.2 Stakeholder identification

As part of the preparation of the modification report, broad consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders including government agencies, community groups and neighbouring residents.

The following key stakeholders have been consulted to date:

Government agencies:

- Environment and Heritage Group (EHG) including Heritage NSW (part of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE))
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)
- Airservices Australia
- Western Sydney Parklands Trust
- NSW Office of Veterans Affairs.

Local councils:

- Liverpool City Council
- Blacktown City Council
- The Hills Shire Council
- Fairfield City Council.

Infrastructure and service providers:

- Westlink Services Limited
- Sydney Trains
- Jemena
- Transgrid
- APA Group
- Telstra/AARNET
- Sydney Water.

Aboriginal groups and organisations:

- Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Special interest groups:

- Bicycle NSW
- Bike North
- Western Sydney Cycling Network
- Marconi Cycling Group
- NSW Returned Services League.

Affected landowners, businesses, and the community:

- Neighbouring residents, businesses and sensitive receivers.

Emergency services

- Liverpool Police Area Command
- Blacktown Police Area Command

- The Hills Police Area Command
- Penrith Police Station
- Parramatta Police Area Command
- Ambulance NSW South Western Sydney Sector
- Ambulance NSW Western Sydney & Nepean Blue Mountains Sector
- NSW SES Southern Sydney Metro Zone
- NSW SES Western Sydney Metro Zone
- NSW Fire and Rescue.

Industry groups:

- Road Freight NSW
- Roads Australia.

The following stakeholders will be consulted with during and/or after the public exhibition of the modification report. (see **Section 6.4.3**):

- Utility providers (Jemena, Endeavour Energy, Optus, TransGrid, Sydney Water, WaterNSW, Telstra, Uecomm)
- Industry bodies, including freight industry bodies
- Western Sydney Airport
- Neighbouring education, recreation and community facilities
- Property developers in the Liverpool, Fairfield, Blacktown and Hills Shire Local Government Areas (if required)
- Road users
- Crown Lands
- Community interest groups.

6.3 Consultation tools and methodology

A range of consultation tools and methods have been and would be used to consult with key stakeholders and the community to provide information on the proposal, create opportunities for feedback and address concerns where possible. These are:

- **Digital channels:** Westlink M7 website and Transport for NSW (Transport) website
- **Print material:** Notifications, community updates, and factsheets
- **Media:** Advertisements, releases, events
- **Social media:** Social media posts (including sponsored posts)
- **Email:** response to enquiries, community updates when required
- **Face to face engagement:** Site visits and briefings with key stakeholders
- **Project infoline:** Transport is the primary point of contact via the project phone 1800 568 970 and via the email address m7widening@transport.nsw.gov.au. These details were provided on all written materials.

6.4 Ongoing consultation and outcomes

Consultation undertaken with key stakeholders during design development and preparation of this modification report occurred between December 2020 and July 2022.

Key stakeholders were informed and consulted on the following topics:

- Need for the proposed modification
- The relevant approval process for the proposed modification
- Timing and scope of the proposed modification
- The environmental, economic and social assessment methodologies.

The following consultation and engagement activities have been undertaken to date:

- **Community update, June 2022:** 7,878 residents alongside the Westlink M7 received a community update to inform them of the proposal, the upcoming exhibition of the modification report, timing and next steps, and contact details for the project team.
- **Stakeholder emails:** key stakeholders identified in **Section 6.2** were emailed to inform them of the proposal, the upcoming exhibition of the modification report, timing and next steps. Stakeholders were also offered a briefing on the proposal.
- **Stakeholder briefings:** two stakeholder briefings were requested and held in July 2022 for Bicycle NSW, and NSW Office of Veterans Affairs and NSW Returned Services League.
- Five emails were received from the community.
- One phone call was received from the community.

Comments and/ or issues raised by key stakeholders and how they have been addressed are summarised in **Appendix C**. Stakeholders were informed that further opportunity for comment and to provide feedback would be available during the public exhibition of the modification report.

Temporary lease agreements would be arranged with relevant landowners for areas proposed to be used for construction ancillary facilities and associated accesses.

6.4.1 Aboriginal cultural consultation

Transport carried out an advertising campaign to engage with the Aboriginal community to connect with local people that may have stories and particular connections with lands within the proposed modification footprint.

This campaign was carried out between 29 June and 13 July 2022 and directed people to the Transport website to find more information about the proposal and the project's contact details.

Advertisements were placed both in local print and online media including Fairfield City Champion, Liverpool City Champion, Blacktown Advocate, and the Koori Mail. A geo-targeted Facebook advertisement was also uploaded between 29 June and 6 July 2022 to supplement the above.

A site visit to travel the proposed modification route by bus, and a subsequent workshop will be carried out with interested members of the Aboriginal community from August 2022. Transport will seek to gain an understanding of the cultural values of the area, and will seek to embed these cultural values in the detailed design of the proposed modification. Outcomes of the consultation will be provided in the Response to Submissions Report.

6.4.2 Consultation with stakeholders for the artwork at the Light Horse Interchange

Transport and WSO Co. engaged the NSW Office of Veterans Affairs and NSW Returned Services League State branch to involve them in defining the final design response for the reinstatement of the artwork at the Light Horse Interchange.

A briefing has held on Wednesday 13 July 2022 with NSW Office of Veterans Affairs and NSW Returned Services League State branch. The purpose of the briefing was to introduce the proposal, discuss the construction and operational impacts of the proposal, and to gain feedback on preliminary options for the reinstatement of the Light Horse Interchange sculpture and fig trees.

Regular consultation and engagement with these stakeholders will continue as the proposal progresses to inform the detailed design of the proposed modification at this location and should it be approved for construction.

6.4.3 Public exhibition of Modification Report

The DPE will place this report on public exhibition online for 21 days.

Transport for NSW will support communication for the exhibition period by carrying out the following communication activities:

- **Community update:** Will be distributed to residents near the Westlink M7, which will include information on the exhibition, where the report can be read, how submissions can be made, and summaries on key chapters from the report
- **Website update:** The project website will be updated with information on the report including a link to read the report
- **Social media:** Transport for NSW Facebook page will publish a geo-targeted post to inform the public that the report is on exhibition. The post will be geotargeted to the Liverpool, Blacktown and Fairfield local government areas
- **Stakeholder email:** The stakeholders identified in **Section 6.2**, excluding the community, will be emailed to inform them the report is on exhibition, including a link to read the report and information on how to make a submission.
- **Stakeholder briefings:** The stakeholders identified in **Section 6.2**, excluding the community, will be offered a briefing on the report.
- **Media release?**

During the exhibition period, government agencies, stakeholders and the community will be able to review this report and will have an opportunity to make a submission to the DPE for consideration in its assessment of the proposed modification.

Submissions can be made online at: <https://mpweb.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/have-your-say>

Alternatively, submissions can be made in writing and sent to the address below:

Attention: Director, Transport Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Further instruction on how to make a written submission and information on handling of personal information is available at the website address above.

6.4.4 Submissions report

At the completion of the exhibition period, DPE will collate and provide Transport with a copy of all submissions received. Transport will prepare a submissions report that responds to the relevant issues raised and outline any proposed changes to the proposed modification. The submissions report will be made publicly available on the DPE website. Anyone making a public submission will receive a letter notifying them of the publication of the submissions report on the DPE website.

6.5 Future consultation

Transport, WSO Co. and DPE will inform the community and stakeholders when a decision has been made regarding the modification application. Should the proposed modification be approved, continued consultation would take place with the community and key stakeholders during the planning and prior to the commencement of any construction activities.

6.5.1 During construction of the proposed modification

Subject to approval and prior to construction commencing for the proposed modification, Transport would notify and consult with key stakeholders on the proposed construction timeframes and construction activities.

The project infoline, website and email address would be retained for enquiries and updates during construction.

Comments and concerns received would be managed under the existing Complaints Management Procedure in place for the Westlink M7 (the approved project).

Construction fatigue may arise when sensitive receivers experience extended construction noise impacts from a project, or more than one project constructed consecutively or sequentially in the same geographical area. **Section 7.2** (Noise and vibration) describes mitigation measures to be implemented for the proposed modification during construction. The proposed modification has the potential to cause construction fatigue in combination with other major projects in the vicinity including the approved M12 Motorway. As part of the Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan, Transport for NSW will liaise and maintain a high level of coordination with the proponents for the major projects identified in **Section 7.18** (Cumulative impacts). In particular, as it is proposed that the approved M12 interchange and proposed widening of the Westlink M7 is constructed as one package, there is greater opportunity to reduce the potential for construction fatigue in the local area. **Section 7.18** (Cumulative impacts) outlines further measures to limit cumulative impacts on nearby receivers.