Figure 8.3  Car share proportion for journey to work trip origins

Figure 8.4  2006 employment density
Performance of the existing road network

Traffic flows
The 2009 annual traffic volume at the Hammondville toll plaza (two way) was 33,144,300.

The maximum morning peak-hour flows on the M5 South West Motorway occur in the section between the Hume Highway and Moorebank Avenue, with up to 4800 vehicles in the eastbound direction and 4100 vehicles in the westbound direction. Capacity limitations to the east see the hourly volumes drop to 2000 in the eastbound direction and 2900 in the westbound direction.

Significant AM peak volumes also occur on the parallel arterial road route, with 3300 eastbound vehicles on the Hume Highway (south of the M5), 3200 eastbound vehicles on Newbridge Road (west of Henry Lawson Drive), and 2400 eastbound vehicles on Canterbury Road (east of The River Road).

There are also significant levels of traffic entering and leaving the M5 South West Motorway at most interchanges, although Belmore Road and The River Road have lower volumes.

Traffic composition
Trucks (Class B traffic) passing the toll collection points account for about six per cent of the total traffic. However, this varies by time of day, with trucks accounting for eight per cent of the tolled traffic in the AM peak period and between four and six per cent in the PM peak period; and reach 12 per cent in the inter-peak period.

Network capacity
The number of lanes and the capacity of ramps and signalised intersections at the interchanges generally determine the capacity of the M5 South West Motorway. The motorway has two lanes in each direction, with the exception of the section at the Hammondville toll plaza (five lanes in each direction – three cash lanes and two e-tag lanes), and the section from Moorebank Avenue to Hume Highway (four lanes in each direction, including extended on- and off-ramps).