

CARL SCULLY MP

Minister for Roads
Minister for Housing
Leader of the House



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 24 September 2004

***NEW ACCESS RAMPS –
SOUTHERN CROSS DRIVE AND GARDENERS ROAD***

The State Government has released its plans to build ramps on Gardeners Road at Eastlakes that will provide direct access to and from Southern Cross Drive.

NSW Minister for Roads, Carl Scully, said the project would be the first to go ahead as part of a 10-year South Sydney road package announced in 2003.

"The thousands of motorists who use Southern Cross Drive each day, will be able to appreciate the effect these ramps will have.

"There is currently no link between Gardeners Road and Southern Cross Drive and this proposal will see south facing ramps constructed between these two roads.

"This will significantly relieve congestion further to the north, particularly around O'Dea and Lachlan Streets, in both the morning and afternoon peaks.

"Locally, Lenthall Street will also experience reduced traffic volumes," he said.

Member for Heffron, Kristina Kenneally, said an environmental assessment as well as investigations into pedestrian movements and local traffic arrangements, would now be undertaken. These are expected to be completed late this year.

"It's important that we protect local roads from any unintended traffic consequences – so called 'rat running' - and that is a key issue we are mindful of," Ms Kenneally said.

"A community update will soon be distributed to local residents and businesses outlining the proposal.

"Tenders are due to be called in the first half of 2005, with construction work planned to start in the second half of 2005 and completion expected in late 2006.

In welcoming the Minister's announcement, the Mayor of the City of Botany Bay, Ron Hoenig, said that if the new ramps decreased traffic on local roads and streets it would be a real benefit to residents.

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"Ever increasing traffic on our local streets and roads is one of the real problems our residents experience," he said.

"Every car or truck we can get off our non-main roads is a plus and for that we are grateful."

"I look forward to working with the Minister and Kristina Kenneally on this and other traffic issues in our City," Mr Hoenig said.

The new ramps will improve traffic flows by providing access to and from the Southern Cross Drive, reducing overall travel times.

New traffic signals will be provided on Gardeners Road for traffic control to and from the ramps and for the safety of pedestrians.

Media Contact: Adam Berry on 9228 4455 or 0412 614 398

Media release as requested. Available traffic info will be send tomorrow.

Regards

Kali Gupta

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