

Strengthening Communities

Through Active Transport
and Green Space



Submission to the
HERRING ROAD UAP
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

August 2014



Dear Sir / Madam

Herring Road Urban Activation Precinct

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission regarding the proposed Herring Road Urban Activation Precinct (UAP). Transurban is committed to making investments in public spaces and infrastructure for the benefit of current and future generations. We support the concepts and plans of the Herring Road UAP and would like to contribute to the development of the area.

As the lease holder of the Hills M2 motorway corridor, which runs along the northern border of the Herring Road precinct, we have identified an opportunity to improve the corridor that aligns with the objectives of the Herring Road UAP. Specifically, we believe this opportunity will improve connectivity and the natural environment, benefitting the surrounding communities.

We hope you will consider our concept as part of the vision for the Herring Road UAP and support the newly regenerated site, proposed connectivity improvements and road corridor enhancements.

This proposal is subject to the ongoing consultation and approval of Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) NSW who are the ultimate owners of the M2 Motorway. We are happy to provide further details and would be pleased to meet with Department of Planning and Environment representatives and the community to discuss the concept in more depth.

The concept is outlined in the following sections of this submission.

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Manager, Sustainability
Transurban

1 An opportunity to enhance the Herring Road precinct

The proposed regeneration and development of an unused site adjacent to the Hills M2 will provide local communities with increased connectivity, improved access to open spaces, and new parks, in alignment with the objectives of the Herring Road UAP. This will be achieved through the development of an easily accessible urban green space and improved walking and cycling paths that enable safer, quicker and more active transport between key destinations.

The concept proposed in this document includes the extension of existing infrastructure and development of new public spaces that would enhance the precinct's functionality, support the area's growth and enrich the lives of local residents in the following ways:

- creating new open green space
- providing better connection to the Lane Cove National Park, shopping centre and commercial district
- developing connected walking and cycling paths that encourage more active and safe transport, and
- installing sculptures and artwork that enhance the visual amenity of the area and serve additional purposes such as generating clean energy.

The below illustration shows how the development of the proposed site could enhance the Herring Road precinct by increasing connectivity between Macquarie Park, Christies Road and the Lane Cove National Park and creating a high quality urban green space for the community.



2 About the site

As part of the Hills M2 Motorway agreement, Transurban leases a one hectare site on the northern side of the motorway between Khartoum Road and Christies Road. It lies opposite the Macquarie Park town centre and backs onto the Lane Cove National Park.

The site will be managed by Transurban until the concession deed expires in 2048. Roads and Maritime Services NSW is the ultimate owner of the land and will provide final approval for any changes.

3 Enhancing connectivity

Developing the site provides an opportunity to enhance connectivity in the Herring Road precinct that supports economic growth and provides residents, students and workers with access to recreational open space. It is proposed that the existing network of paths be extended to include additional links that connect the Macquarie town centre, commercial district and residential areas with the regenerated site and potentially the Lane Cove National Park. This will provide safe, efficient and sustainable commuting corridors that add value to the precinct and directly benefit the community.

3.1 Creating new links

Transurban has undertaken a review of the walking and cycling paths around the site and identified a series of missing links that could help to complete the network of active transport paths in the area. Providing these new links will enhance the proposed network of walking and cycling paths outlined in the Herring Road UAP. The potential links include:

- connecting Khartoum Road and Christies Road with a walking and cycling path, enabling safe active transport alongside the M2 Motorway and access to the Lane Cove National Park
- connecting Vimiera Road to the bike path at Culloden and Talavera Roads along the M2 Motorway
- connecting Vimiera Road to Christies Road bike path connection alongside the M2 Motorway
- creating access via the tunnel under the M2 Motorway at Herring Road, allowing for safe passage to the site, and
- creating access across Lane Cove River to the Great North Walk.

The proposed links could provide improved accessibility, safety and connectivity for the community to areas outside the Herring Road UAP (see the map below). In particular, they would enhance access between residential and commercial hubs to the Lane Cove National Park.

Importantly, the proposed cycle path connections above would allow cyclists to ride adjacent to the Hills M2 on a dedicated pedestrian/cycle path. This is a safer alternative to riding alongside high speed traffic on the motorway.

The below map identifies the additional walking and cycling paths that would enhance the network of paths outlined in the Herring Road UAP.



4 Enhancing the natural environment

Developing the unused site adjacent to the Herring Road UAP provides an opportunity to create a high quality public space for residents to enjoy, which will enhance the local environment and improve livability. It is proposed that the site is regenerated to create an inviting, natural, open space that blends seamlessly with the Lane Cove National Park. The inclusion of artistic elements, such as sculptures and wall murals, will complement the natural bush land and add to aesthetic appeal of the area. It is envisaged that these elements will also serve functional purposes such as clean energy generation or noise barriers.

The below photographs show the existing condition of the site, M2 Motorway underpass, nearby Shrimpton's Creek and bush land.



The below illustrations show the proposed site development that would enhance the Herring Road precinct with additional connecting pedestrian/cycle paths, an open green space for the community and access to the Lane Cove National Park.



4.1 Smart regeneration

There are numerous options to enhance the aesthetic appeal and functionality of the site for the benefit of the local community. Physical design and features will be finalised subject to site assessment and discussions with various stakeholders. Beyond the physical design, it is proposed that regeneration activities could include:

- wetland plantings
- a storm water wetland
- a natural noise wall with kinetic water structures that generate clean renewable energy
- a walking and cycling path loop, and
- a boardwalk offering a lookout point over Shrimptons Creek.

Together these features could create a versatile, natural space that can be easily accessed by residents, students and workers to enjoy. The open space could enrich the lives of the community in the following ways:

- the green space provides a recreational area and enhances the livability of the Macquarie Park district
- the walking and cycling loop provides exercise and activity options contributing to residents' health and well-being, and
- the kinetic structures and wall mural promotes sustainable living.

In addition, restoring and regenerating natural vegetation, including a wetland, creates a natural habitat for native animals and birds.

5 The way forward

We seek from the Department of Planning and Environment, in-principle support for this concept, and the inclusion of the site as a new open space in the final Herring Road UAP.

This proposal has been designed to be adaptable to any future planning by the City of Ryde Council and Department of Planning and Environment. Along with other key stakeholders, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service will provide valuable input into the concept development with RMS to provide final approval for any changes.

The success of this initiative will be achieved through genuine collaboration and consultation with all stakeholders. This consultation will be undertaken in the next phase and will build on the in-principle endorsement of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

Transurban requests:

1. That the proposed connectivity improvements and road corridor enhancements as described in section 2 be considered for inclusion in the final plan for the Herring Road UAP (subject further community and stakeholder consultation).
2. Should this concept be considered of value to the Herring Road UAP and agreeable to all stakeholders that the precinct boundary be extended to include the site described in section 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal relating to the Herring Road UAP. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on the concept and would welcome the prospect of working with the Department of Planning and Environment, City of Ryde Council, all other stakeholders and the local community to enhance local connectivity, safety and the natural environment.

Should you have any queries about our proposal, please do not hesitate to contact Clare Baldwin on +61 3 8656 8248 or cbaldwin@transurban.com.





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