



Australian Government

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**



Transport for NSW

# Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

## Air quality monitoring stations fact sheet

August 2021



A typical air quality monitoring station

Together the Australian and NSW Governments are investing more than \$4.5 billion towards upgrading the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow. The Great Western Highway Upgrade will reduce congestion, deliver safer, more efficient and reliable journeys for those travelling in, around and through the Blue Mountains, and better connect communities in the Central West.

Transport for NSW (Transport) installs ambient air quality monitoring stations to help identify environmental impacts of a proposed motorway project.

From August we will begin installing three air quality monitoring stations at key points along the proposed Great Western Highway Upgrade corridor to gather information about the existing air quality.

The location of an air quality monitoring station does not indicate the final alignment of the upgraded Great Western Highway, or the inclusion of potential ventilation facilities.

Monitoring stations are generally situated somewhere within or near the proposed project corridor to allow the collection of representative air quality data.

## What do air quality monitoring stations do?

Air quality monitoring stations measure concentrations of air pollutants such as carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide, as well as ozone and particulate matter within the air. They also monitor weather conditions, including temperature, wind direction and wind speed.

Monitoring operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week and must meet strict operational guidelines that are set out in Australian Standards.

Equipment is tested and calibrated about twice a month to ensure the data collected is accurate.

The operation of monitoring stations includes some mechanical noise from fans and pumps. This noise is not intrusive, and is generally less than local traffic noise.

## What happens with the data?

The data that the air quality monitoring stations collect will be used in preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Great Western Highway Upgrade central section (Blackheath to Little Hartley).

This helps demonstrate that the project will comply with all of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) requirements.

An EIS identifies potential environmental and social impacts of a project such as noise, traffic, dust, visual amenity, air quality and community impacts during its construction and operation. Mitigation measures are proposed to minimise potential impacts.

The EIS will be publicly exhibited so members of the community can make submissions on all aspects of the project, including air quality.

## Project approval process

The DPIE considers all information presented in the project EIS and issues raised in submissions. The EIS is also reviewed by NSW Health, the EPA, other relevant agencies and expert technical peer reviewers. The NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer also commission international experts to review the air quality assessment.

Transport is required to respond to issues raised by agencies and the public before the DPIE makes a recommendation to the Minister for Planning on whether to approve the project.

The DPIE's recommendation is provided in a detailed Secretary's Environmental Assessment Report which includes advice from other agencies and peer reviewers. This report details whether the potential impacts of the project have been appropriately mitigated and includes draft approval conditions for the Minister for Planning's consideration. The Minister then decides whether or not to approve the project and with what conditions.

## More information

### Great Western Highway Upgrade Program

[nswroads.work/gwhd](http://nswroads.work/gwhd)

### Frequently asked questions about air monitoring

[www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/faqamsampling.htm](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/faqamsampling.htm)

## Contact us

Sign up for our eNewsletter online at [nswroads.work/gwhd](http://nswroads.work/gwhd) and you'll never miss a project update.



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