

5 December 2005

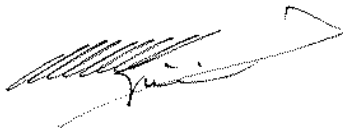
## Westlink M7 to Open 16 December 2005

Westlink Motorway Limited has advised that Transurban's 40 per cent owned Westlink M7 in Sydney will open to traffic on 16 December 2005 – eight months ahead of schedule.

Westlink M7 is a 40 km motorway in western Sydney. It will link the M2 at Baulkham Hills, the M4 at Eastern Creek and the M5 at Prestons, and bypass 48 sets of traffic lights.

Transurban's role in the Westlink project involves:

- A 40 per cent equity stake in the road's owner, Westlink Motorway
- Supply of the tolling system, and
- Provision of tolling and customer management services.



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Classification 

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Australian Government



## Westlink M7 Opens 16 December

4 December 2005

Westlink M7, the new \$1.5 billion motorway in Sydney's west, will open on 16 December - eight months ahead of schedule.

The 40 kilometre Westlink M7 will link the M2 at Baulkham Hills, the M4 at Eastern Creek and M5 at Prestons.

It will bypass 48 sets of traffic lights and save motorists time and petrol.

The opening date announcement was made by Federal Roads Minister Jim Lloyd MP and Westlink M7 General Manager Flan Cleary.

"Westlink M7 is the largest single project in the Australian Government's AusLink National Land Transport Network. The Australian Government has provided \$356 million towards construction, with the balance provided by Westlink Motorway Limited," Mr Lloyd said.

"Westlink M7 is the first AusLink Investment Program project to open in Australia. AusLink is the largest investment in land transport infrastructure in our nation's history and Westlink M7 provides an important model for major infrastructure projects under AusLink in the future as it drives national productivity and strengthens economic performance," he said.

"Westlink M7 demonstrates the scale, scope and vision of the \$12.7 billion initial AusLink program."

Flan Cleary said "Westlink M7 will revolutionise the way people and freight move around western Sydney.

"It will link major new industrial parks and population nodes, creating jobs and urban renewal in a region where half of Sydney's population will be living by 2020.

"The Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board estimates that Westlink M7 will generate \$3 billion in additional economic development and 24,000 new jobs in the next three years.

"Westlink M7 is already a magnet for economic development. Major companies like Woolworths, Coles, Coca Cola, TNT, Blue Scope Steel and LG Electronics are relocating to business and industrial parks along Westlink M7 to take advantage of being close to the motorway.

"Westlink M7 will connect the west and cut travel times around Sydney. Seventeen different access points will offer motorists direct connections to booming commercial hubs, local suburbs and popular recreational areas.

Mr Lloyd congratulated the thirteen thousand workers who delivered this project ahead of schedule and said the early opening of the M7 will provide motorists with an opportunity to use it during the Christmas holidays.

"This project is a tribute to all involved, and a great example of how the public and private sectors can work together to fast track the delivery of essential infrastructure," Mr Lloyd said.

"Opening before Christmas means people who normally endure 48 sets of traffic lights on the Cumberland Highway will get to their holiday destination sooner."

Westlink M7 is Australia's first distance-based fully electronic toll road – motorists will only pay for the distance they travel, making it cost-effective for short and long trips. Tolls will vary from 40c up to a cap of about \$6.00.

Motorists will need an electronic tag or an electronic pass to use Westlink M7.

All tags will work on Westlink M7.

Motorists who do not already have a tag can take advantage of Westlink's offer of \$50 worth of free M7 toll credits, which has been extended until 15 December. It means every customer who sets up a Roam e-TAG account before the M7 opens to traffic receives \$50 worth of travel free on Westlink M7.\*

To get a Roam e-TAG® device motorists can log-on to [roam.com.au](http://roam.com.au) or call 13 TOLL (13 86 55).

Westlink M7 has been designed and constructed by the Abigroup Leighton Joint Venture. Westlink Motorway Limited Shareholders are Transurban (40 percent), Macquarie Infrastructure Group (40 Percent), Leighton Holdings and Contractors (10 percent) and Abigroup (10 percent). The distance based tolling system has been developed by Transurban. The customer relationship management system has been developed and will be operated by Roam Tolling, a Transurban subsidiary.

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*\*Toll credits valid for travel on Westlink M7 only. Toll credits are not transferable or refundable. Toll Credits are valid until midnight June 30, 2006.*

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