

Pymble Interchange

The completion of Pymble Interchange eliminates another traffic troublespot in Sydney.

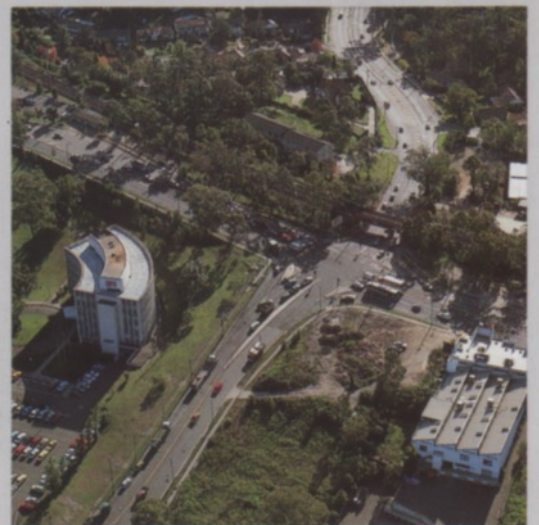
The \$21 million interchange, at the intersection of the Pacific Highway with Ryde and Mona Vale Roads at Pymble, will be welcomed by all users of these two major routes.

Funded under the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Programme, this important project not only clears a notorious bottleneck, it eliminates one of Sydney's worst accident blackspots.

Pacific Highway traffic will no longer conflict with traffic on busy Ryde and Mona Vale Roads, which form part of Ring Road 33, Sydney's most important cross-regional route.

By separating cross-traffic flows, long delays and conflict will be a thing of the past at this intersection.

And with 70,000 vehicles passing through the intersection everyday, that's good news for a lot of people.



Top: A model of Pymble Interchange.

Centre: Construction nearing completion in September 1988.

Bottom: The intersection of the Pacific Highway with Ryde and Mona Vale Roads before construction began in 1983.

Pymble Interchange

Pymble Interchange is a grade separated Interchange. Its construction included a 70m long tunnel to carry Ring Road 33 traffic under the Pacific Highway. Ramps connect Ring Road traffic to highway level where all turning movements take place. A special U-turn facility enables access to and from the adjacent local street system.

The project required extensive adjustments of major utilities, the most notable being a new railway overbridge. Because of the high volumes of traffic using the intersection and the constraints imposed by adjustments to water mains, sewers, telephone lines, gas mains and electrical cables, the staging of the work was a complex and protracted operation.

At no stage of construction, however, was there a reduction in the number of lanes available to traffic. In fact, at the completion of each stage, traffic conditions were improved.

The project was undertaken by two separate contracts. The first contract was let to G. Hawkins and Sons in September 1983 for the partial construction of the Ryde Road on-and-off ramps and widening of the Pacific Highway north of Ryde Road.

Concurrent with this work, the State Rail Authority constructed a new bridge over Mona Vale Road. This enabled Mona Vale Road to be widened.

The second contract was undertaken by the Department of Main Roads. Commenced early in 1986, this involved all remaining work, which was undertaken in five stages.

In Stage 1 temporary pavements were constructed to divert Mona Vale Road traffic onto the new ramps in Ryde Road and enable tunnel construction to commence.

Stage 2 involved construction of the first section of tunnel and the remaining retaining walls and pavement to the Mona Vale Road loading ramp in preparation for moving traffic onto the ramp in the next stage. The Pacific Highway was deviated to the east to allow construction of the centre section of tunnel.

Stage 3 included the second section of tunnel, new pavement on the Pacific Highway and Ryde Road unloading ramp as well as on Ring Road 33 east and west of the tunnel. Preparations were made for a westerly deviation of the Pacific Highway to complete the tunnel.

Stage 4 saw construction of the final 20m of tunnel and the medians to the Pacific Highway. Preparations were made for switching traffic to its final locations.

Stage 5 included completion of final traffic islands, the remaining medians, kerbs, pavement, lane marking and the installation of traffic signals. The project was completed and officially opened to traffic on 21 December 1988.

Overall, the project entailed some 55,000 cubic metres of earthworks, 1,000 linear metres of retaining walls of up to 6 metres in height, 28,000 square metres of road pavement and 2,350 square metres of bridge deck over the tunnel.

Various stages of construction.

Top: Looking along Ryde Road towards Mona Vale Road, May 1986.

Centre: The Mona Vale Road approach to the Interchange, November 1987.

Bottom: Looking north along the Pacific Highway, September 1988.

