

# THE Daily Telegraph

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## Paying for M4 tunnel vision

By LILLIAN SALEH Political Reporter  
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**THE controversial M4 east tunnel will be almost 5km and carry a \$5 toll each way, *The Daily Telegraph* can exclusively reveal.**

The State Government will today release amendments to its preferred option for the "missing link" in Sydney's road network, connecting the M4 at Concord with the city.

Intense community pressure has forced Roads Minister Carl Scully to support a tunnel 1km longer than he originally planned in an effort to bypass one inner western suburb - and community outcry.

The tunnel comes at a significant price, blowing out construction costs by \$300 million to \$1.8 billion.

Motorists will be slugged \$5 in each direction.

The toll comes into place just as a 20-year concession on the M4 toll expires, with the Government breaking its promise of no new tolls for Sydney's west.

The 4.6km tunnel will run from the end of the M4 at Concord joining the City West Link near Dobroyd Point, east of Timbrell Drive, significantly bypassing Haberfield.

Mr Scully averted a backbench revolt by succumbing to demands by junior Labor MPs, particularly Drummoyne MP Angela D'Amore.

Mr Scully yesterday confirmed her efforts played a major role in amending the plans.

"Angela made it very clear to me that the RTA's original short tunnel proposal was simply too short and would have a detrimental impact on the people of Haberfield," he said. "The proposed tunnel will now substantially bypass Haberfield."

Other significant changes to the contentious project include:

THE eastbound tunnel connecting with Parramatta Rd extended to Bland St, after community outrage;

THE off-ramp eastbound from the M4 to Concord Rd will be moved closer to the main part of the motorway to let Sydney St revert to a local street; and

AN extra lane in each direction on the existing section of the M4 between Homebush Bay Drive and Parramatta Rd.

The project has blown out to \$1.8bn.

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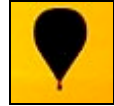
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