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## HORNSBY

# 'Short-term pain' as trucks roll in for project to turn quarry into parkland

Nigel Gladstone

UP TO 70 extra trucks an hour are expected in Hornsby June now that a plan to fill the quarry has been approved.

Hornsby state Liberal MP Matt Kean said excavated spoil from the NorthConnex motorway project would be stockpiled before being loaded onto a conveyor and put into the quarry void.

It is expected that 1.5 million cubic metres of dirt and rock will fill about a third of the quarry.

"This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform a barren, disused hole into a 45 hectare parkland," Mr Kean said.

Hornsby Mayor Steve Russell said some residents were concerned about the route the trucks would take and the council did not want heavy vehicles on the west side of Hornsby.

"They will go down George St and Bridge St," Mr Russell said. "The end result is we'll have two points of

entry to the new park but first there will be a little bit of short-term pain."

The partial filling of the quarry, by trucked-in spoil, will take about 2½ years and is due to finish in 2018.

The council then expects to spend a few years pushing the earth near the quarry into a 100m deep hole to lift it

by another third. Trucks will have to cover their loads and access to the site will only be via Bridge Rd on a route that includes the Pacific Highway, the M1 and Jersey St North.

Hornsby Council is building traffic lights at Peats Ferry Rd and Watson Ave to allow the closure of Roper Lane during the haulage operations.

Bridge Rd will also be widened to deal with the trucks from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

An alternative place for carpentry and joinery classes held at Hornsby TAFE will be found.