

# Western Harbour Tunnel Stage 2

Community Update | December 2022



The Western Harbour Tunnel is a key part of our vision to create an integrated road and public transport network, balancing the needs of commuters and local communities. Western Harbour Tunnel will transform the way people and goods move around our great city by creating a western bypass of the Sydney CBD and take pressure off the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Harbour Tunnel, Anzac Bridge and Western Distributor corridors.

## Stage 2 Contract Award

The project has reached a significant milestone. After a successful competitive tender process, we have awarded the second and final stage of the Western Harbour Tunnel (WHT) to delivery partner Acciona Construction Australia to design and build this stage, which includes:

- Connection to Stage 1 at Birchgrove
- Tunnelling between Birchgrove and Warringah Freeway
- Complete tunnel fit-out.



## Crossing Sydney Harbour

During the tender process different designs and methodology are considered to ensure the best design and outcome for the community and environment is selected.


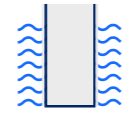

Acciona submitted an alternative methodology of using a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) to tunnel beneath the Sydney Harbour seabed. This design was assessed and selected as part of their overall solution, which provides the best overall value for the people of NSW, and further minimises impacts on the local community and environment.

The Stage 2 overview map on page 4 outlines where TBM and roadheaders will be used in the construction of the tunnels.



## Benefits of using a TBM

There are many environmental and community benefits by using a TBM to construct a section of the tunnels.

-  Yurulbin Point temporary construction site no longer required
-  Berrys Bay temporary construction site no longer required
-  Cofferdam no longer required
-  No dredging required
-  No temporary impact to Birchgrove Ferry Wharf
-  NSW Government commitment to deliver Berrys Bay master plan earlier

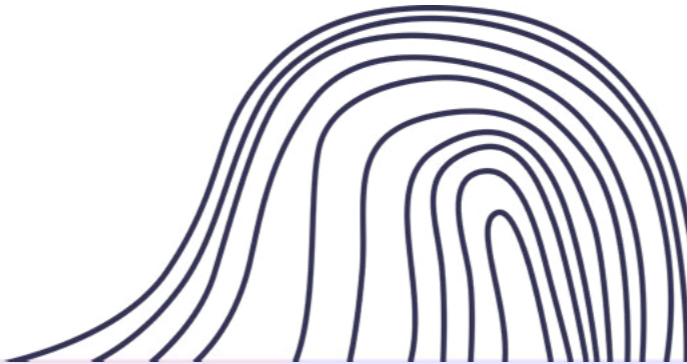
## How will we build Stage 2?

Our TBMs will be some of the world's biggest, and will excavate more than 17 metres below the Sydney Harbour seabed. Two separate TBMs will be used for the Project, and both will be launched underground in Birchgrove. They will tunnel through to Balls Head where they will join the northern tunnels excavated by Roadheaders.

Roadheaders will still be used from Cammeray to excavate on the northern side of the harbour. At excavation peak, up to 10 roadheaders will excavate the tunnels to where it meets the TBM in Balls Head, similar to the technique currently used on Stage 1 of the project.

It is expected to take around three and a half years to fully excavate the tunnels for Stage 2 of the WHT.

For more information visit our **TBM factsheet** on our website.



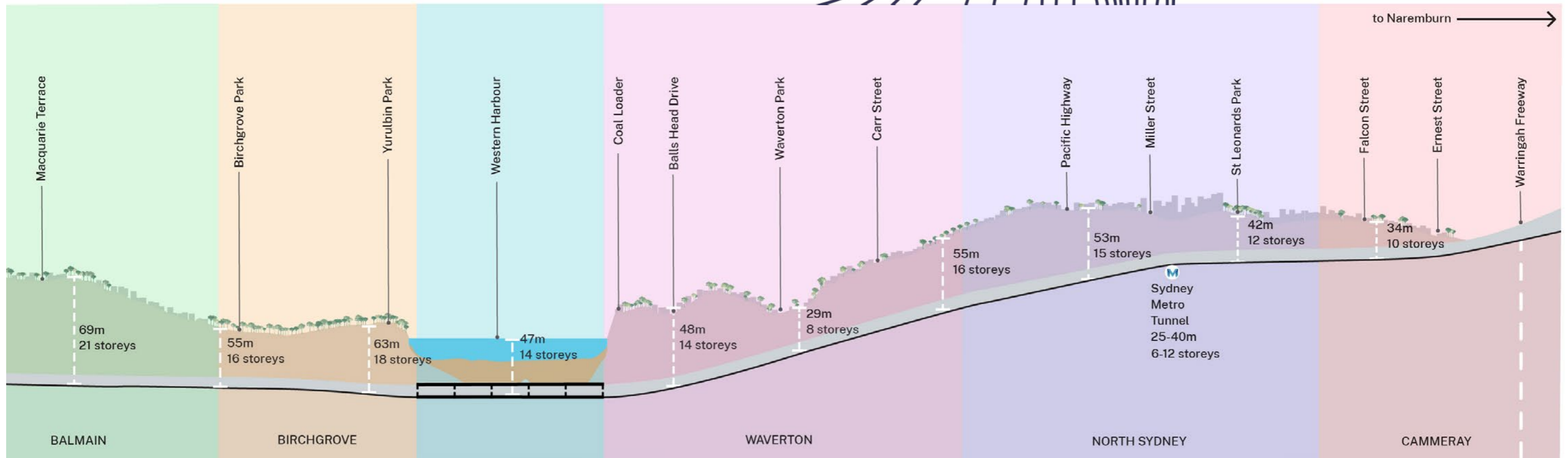
## Why was a TBM not considered earlier?

A design using a TBM was originally considered as part of the EIS. At the time, an IMT tunnel design was assessed as being the most suitable option due to the nature of the project as well as the local ground conditions beneath Sydney's Harbour.

Since the development of the concept design in 2017 and the proposed reference design in 2018 for the project, technology and the market have evolved. Other projects have recently proven the efficiency and success of using a TBM to tunnel beneath Sydney's Harbour.

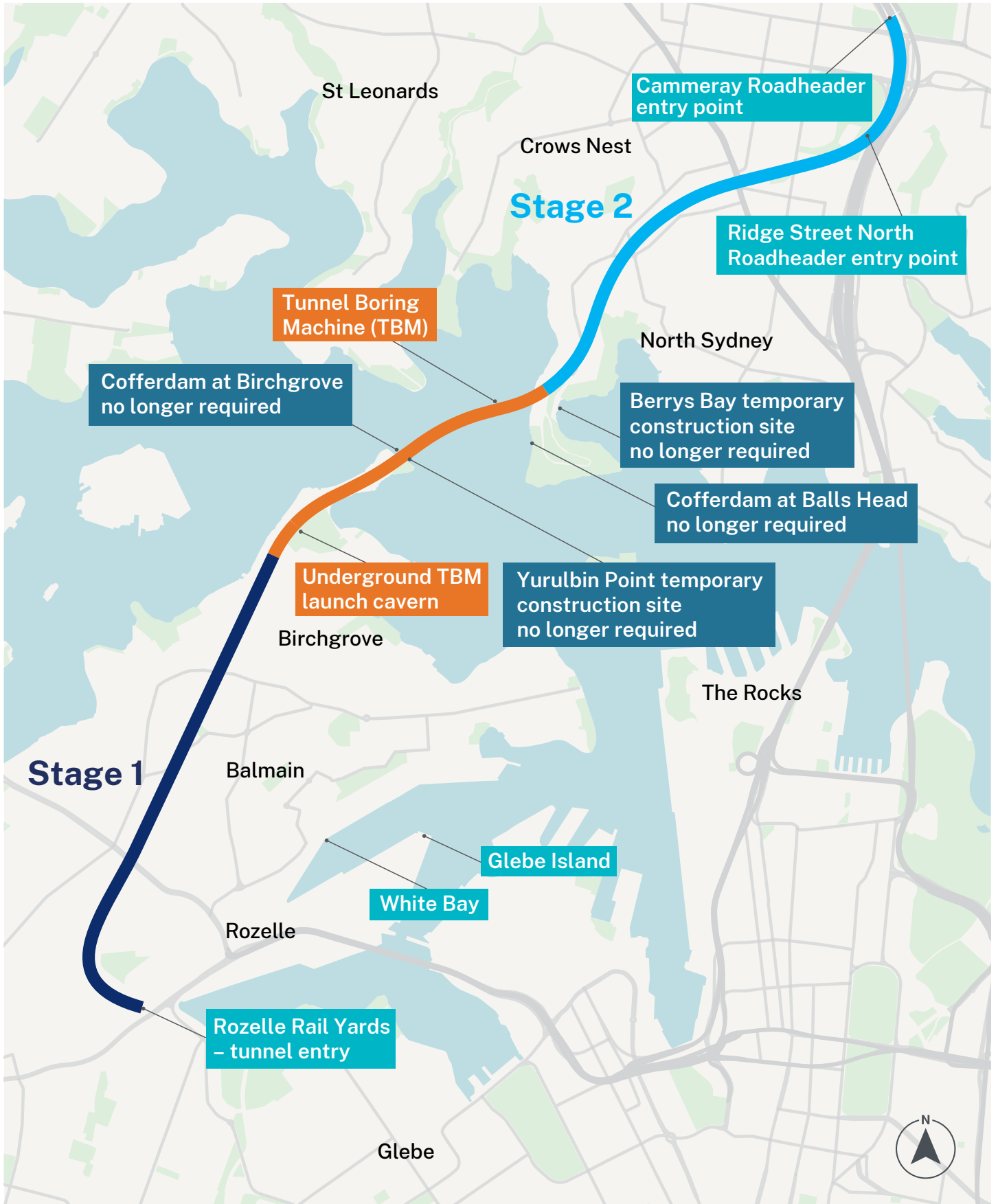
As this methodology was not fully assessed and approved during the EIS, we will need to seek further approval from the NSW Minister for Planning to use the TBM methodology through a modification, which the community will be consulted on in late 2023. This is a standard process when making changes to an approved major project.

For more information about the modification process and how you can be involved visit our **modification factsheet** on our website.



Stage 2 tunnel alignment is subject to detailed design and is not to scale

# Stage 2 overview map



## KEY

- Stage 1
- Stage 2
- construction site no longer required
- construction site required

\* Stage 2 tunnel alignment is subject to detailed design and is not to scale

## Next steps

### Detailed design

Consistent with complex major infrastructure projects progressing through an environmental planning and assessment process, the design and construction approach presented in the EIS was at planning stage and indicative only.

Further refinement as part of detailed design is now underway and we are working to develop the design and construction methodologies. This includes tunnel alignment, depth and supporting infrastructure.

We have an experienced team here to help, and opportunities to get to know the project team face to face will be held in early 2023. We will provide information about these events in the new year.

Early work is expected to start early 2023. We will contact residents before any work in an area starts.

### Berrys Bay

The NSW Government is committed to improving public open space and will enable the delivery of a new foreshore park at Berrys Bay, which can be delivered much earlier than planned for the benefit of the local community.

The community will be informed on next steps on the master plan process and timing for delivery in the coming weeks.

### Stay up to date on the project

We know building a major project in a large busy city like Sydney, will come with some disruption to day to day life. We understand you may have questions about the upcoming work, and we have a team of experienced people here to help.

We will keep you informed throughout every step of the project.

To receive email updates about the project and stay informed, please sign up to our area specific email distribution lists at [nswroads.work/whtportal-subscribe](https://nswroads.work/whtportal-subscribe) or scan the QR code.




Sign up to our email distribution list to receive project updates.

Scan the QR code or go to [nswroads.work/whtportal-subscribe](https://nswroads.work/whtportal-subscribe)

### Get in touch

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact our project team:

 **1800 931 189**

 **[whtbl@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:whtbl@transport.nsw.gov.au)**

 **[nswroads.work/wht-stage2](https://nswroads.work/wht-stage2)**

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### Translating and interpreting service

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1800 931 189**.

