

# Warringah Freeway Upgrade

High Street interchange upgrade, North Sydney

Community notification | January 2024

MW158S



We are simplifying the Warringah Freeway, making it safer and easier to use, and more efficient and reliable for the benefit of all road users, including public transport users.

## High Street interchange upgrade

In November 2022, we started to upgrade the High Street intersection to improve safety, connectivity and efficiency in the North Sydney area, as the community continues to grow.

Work will continue over the next 18 months at the High Street interchange. Work will include temporary and permanent traffic, pedestrian and cycling changes, utility work, and reconfiguring and upgrading traffic lanes. Once completed, the upgraded High Street interchange will include:

- an upgraded and widened High Street bridge with four westbound lanes and two eastbound lanes, to provide improved capacity into North Sydney via the Pacific Highway
- a new northbound on ramp from the High Street bridge onto the Warringah Freeway, which will become operational when the Western Harbour Tunnel project is completed
- a new pedestrian and cycling path on the southern side of the High Street bridge
- new traffic lights at the High Street and Alfred Street North intersection replacing the existing roundabout
- new medians and line marking to and from Whaling Road via Alfred Street North
- an upgraded Alfred Street North southbound off ramp to create a direct connection to High Street.



Aerial view of High Street interchange work areas photographed in October 2023.

## What has happened so far?

We have been working hard to progress work in this area including:

- establishing temporary construction support sites
- removing, relocating, and installing utilities
- removing trees and vegetation
- installing bridge supports to widen the High Street bridge
- removing redundant gantries
- implementing permanent and temporary traffic, pedestrian and cycling changes.

## Upcoming work

From January 2024, we continued to upgrade the High Street interchange including:

- continuing with removing, pruning trees and vegetation
- installing and removing line markings, signage and barriers
- removing and installing new pavement and kerbs
- removing, installing, and upgrading utilities





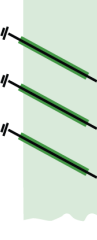


- adjusting existing traffic infrastructure
- adjusting, reconfiguring, realigning roads and lanes
- demolishing concrete medians, ramps, structures and relocating concrete barriers
- upgrading pedestrian and cycling paths
- installing new concrete and asphalt
- upgrading and installing Intelligent Transport Systems infrastructure, traffic signals and street lighting
- excavating, rock bolting and trenching
- widening the High Street bridge
- removing and building retaining walls and a new noise wall on top of the existing retaining wall between the Cahill Expressway and McDougall Street
- piling work to widen the High Street bridge and building retaining walls.
- temporary parking removal along the McDougall Street cul-de-sac
- relandscaping impacted areas
- installing traffic signage gantries.

## High Street interchange work areas






## 1 High Street west work area

### What has happened so far?


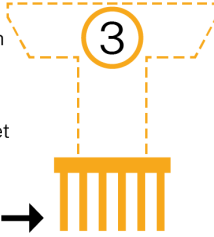


Implemented the permanent closure of the right turn into Walker Street, North Sydney from the Pacific Highway northbound off ramp for all motorists. 	Established a temporary construction site in 2022 and installed staff facilities and parking.   	Installed over 270 soil nails to retain the new northbound widening on the Warringah Freeway between Mount Street and High Street. Soil nails are used to stabilise and support slopes, retaining walls and excavations by reinforcing the soil and increasing its stability. 	Removed over 7,000 tonnes of spoil, which is being recycled for use on other road projects and land development sites. 	Completed utility protection works for retaining wall work, including Sydney Harbour Tunnel fire services, telecommunications and Ausgrid High Voltage. 
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### What we plan to do in the next six months

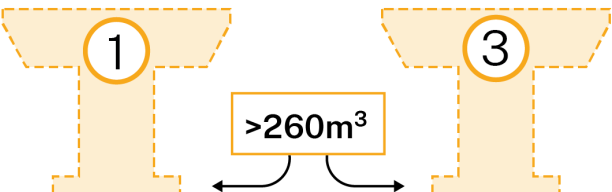
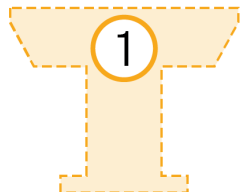
Complete retaining wall work for the new northbound widening between the Pacific Highway off ramp and Mount Street bridge. 	Commence of the new northbound pavement widening between the Pacific Highway off ramp and Mount Street bridge. 	Implement the next traffic change at the High Street and Arthur Street intersection in preparation for upgrading the intersection. 
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## 2 High Street bridge work area

### What has happened so far?






Poured over 95m <sup>3</sup> of concrete to construct the new bridge abutments. Abutments are structures that support a bridge across land or water. 	Completed the Pier 3 foundation with over 140m <sup>3</sup> of concrete poured for the new High Street bridge widening. 	Completed Pier 4 for the new High Street bridge widening over December 2023 and January 2024 with over 140m <sup>3</sup> of concrete poured. 	Completed Pier 5 for the new High Street bridge widening. 
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### What we plan to do in the next six months





Complete Pier 1 and Pier 3 with over 260m <sup>3</sup> of concrete expected to be poured for the new High Street bridge widening. 	Complete Pier 1 for the new High Street northbound on ramp. 
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## 3 High Street east work area

### What has happened so far?

Completed two Sydney Water pipe relocations. 	Commenced the High Street southbound on ramp widening work. 	Completed Ausgrid High Voltage utility relocation. 	Implemented a pedestrian and cyclist diversion route, as we temporarily closed the existing southern footpath on High Street and the existing Ennis Lane access stairs on 8 September 2023 for up to 12 months to safely build the new shared paths and to carry out road widening work at High Street. 	Re-designed the Ausgrid and Sydney Water utility relocations to save 117 trees, including two large fig trees on Alfred Street North, near the tennis courts and the Alfred Street North and High Street intersection. 
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### What we plan to do in the next six months

Complete the High Street southbound on ramp pavement. 	Carry out two weekend shutdowns to reconstruct and tie-in the existing pavement. 	Commence building the new noise wall on top of the retaining wall along McDougall Street at the western side of the High Street on ramp. 	Commence upgrading the existing roundabout (Alfred Street North and High Street intersection) to a signalised intersection. Work to upgrade this existing roundabout will commence with tree clearing, followed by drainage and temporary pavement construction work. 
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## Upcoming tree removal at High Street and Pacific Highway, North Sydney

We are committed to reducing our impact and to retain as many existing trees as possible at High Street. We have worked hard to reduce the number of trees to be removed as originally assessed and approved in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

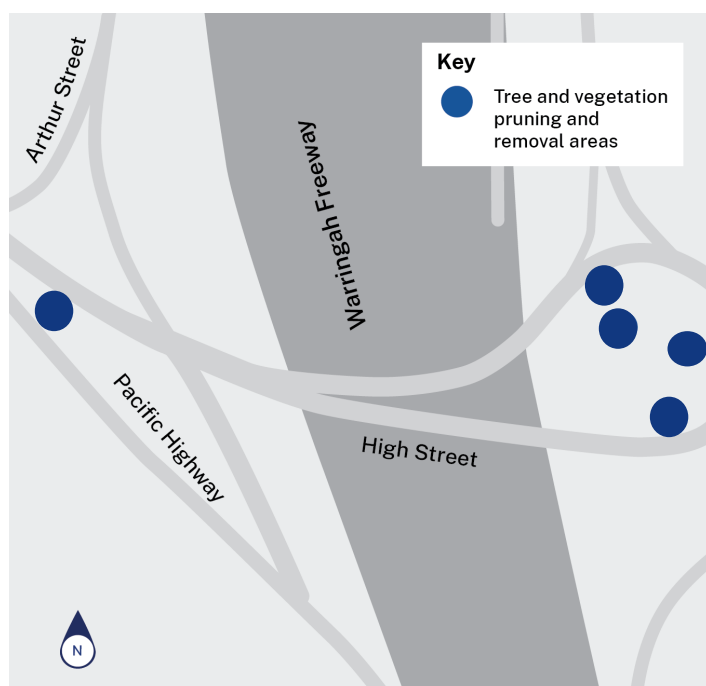
Extensive design workshops for the future signalised intersection at High Street have identified that only four trees of the 55 existing trees will be required to be removed in February 2024 at the existing roundabout to enable the High Street roundabout upgrade works. We will also need to remove one palm tree located at Pacific Highway, between Blue Street and Arthur Street in mid-2024 to continue to build the permanent road alignment and intersection at High Street and Pacific Highway, North Sydney.

## Tree replacement Strategy

In February 2023, we sought feedback from the community on our Tree Replacement Strategy including locations for replacement trees, tree sizes, species and community views on tree replacement alternatives we may not have previously considered.

We have updated the Tree Replacement Strategy taking into account your valuable feedback. The updated strategy includes our approach to replacing trees in the North Sydney area in line with the planning conditions and responding to community preferences. These conditions mean that at the end of the project, there will be more trees in North Sydney and other areas than there were before.

For more information, please visit our portal to view the Tree Replacement Strategy at [nswroads.work/wfuportal](https://nswroads.work/wfuportal).



Tree removal locations



## Temporary traffic, pedestrian and cycling changes

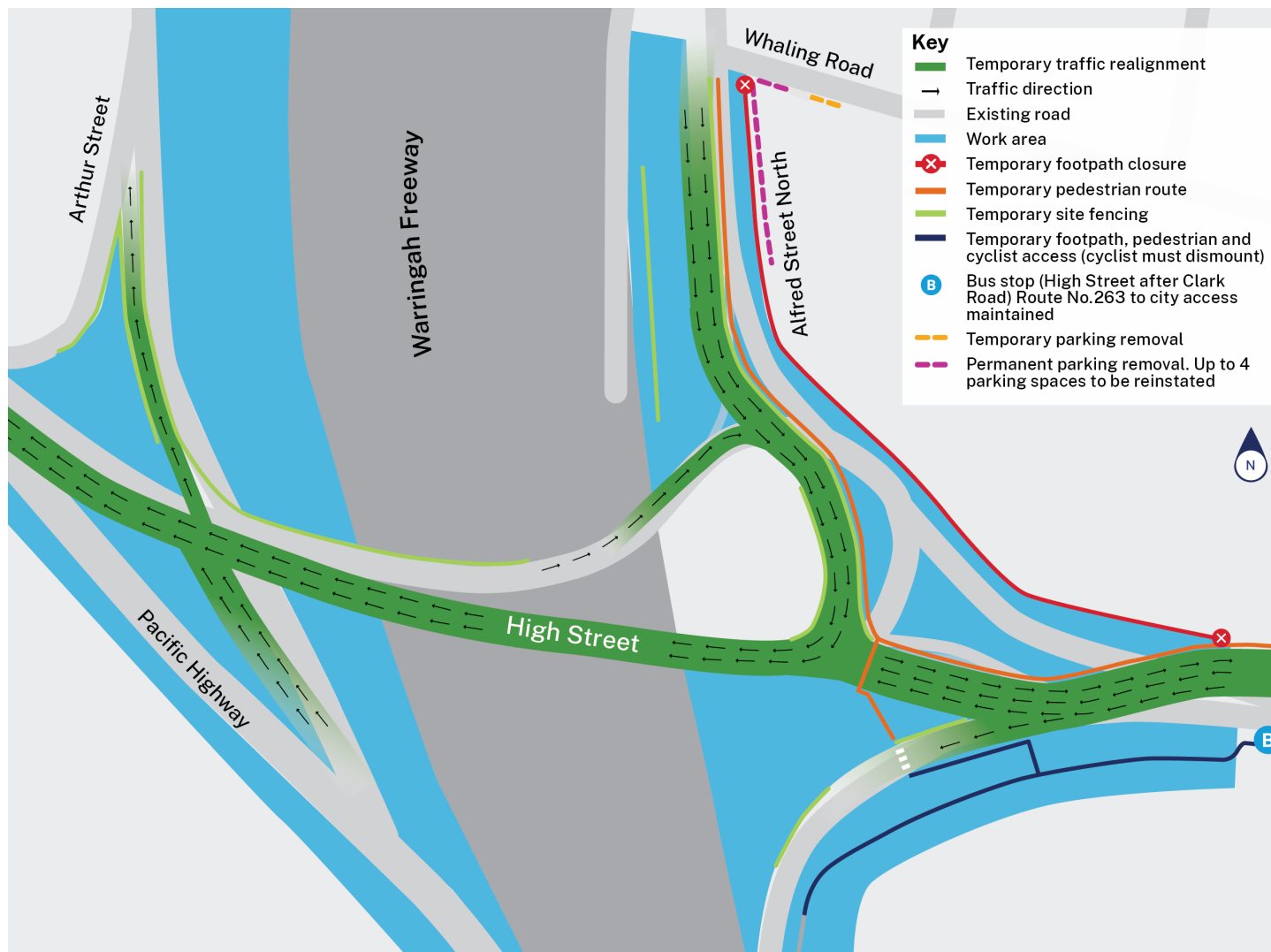
We are realigning and upgrading the High Street bridge and connecting intersections to improve the overall safety and functionality. From 2 February 2024, we will start work to convert the existing High Street roundabout at the intersection of High Street and Alfred Street North to traffic lights. From May 2024, all traffic travelling on the High Street bridge westbound towards North Sydney will be shifted.

This temporary traffic change will be in place for up to 12 months to safely continue our work.

Long and short-term traffic, pedestrian and cycling changes are planned to be implemented at the High Street interchange over the next six months to carry out pavement work. We will inform the community ahead of these traffic changes occurring. Please also refer to the map below to view the upcoming temporary traffic changes at High Street.

To ensure the safety of all road users and our workers, please keep to speed limits and follow the direction of signage and traffic controllers. Access for residents will be maintained at all times.

## Upcoming temporary traffic changes at High Street



## On-street parking removal in North Sydney

In November 2022 and September 2023, we consulted with you on the temporary and permanent removal of on-street parking spaces on Alfred Street North, Whaling Road, High Street and McDougall Street. These spaces are being removed to build the new and connecting roads on Alfred Street North, Whaling Road and High Street.

If you have any further questions or concerns about the temporary and permanent removal of parking at these locations, please get in touch with the project team on **1800 931 189** or **whtbl@transport.nsw.gov.au**

# McDougall Street noise wall

We are building a new noise wall on top of the existing retaining wall between the Cahill Expressway and McDougall Street, at the western side of the High Street on ramp. Work to install the new noise wall is expected to commence in mid-2024 and take up to 12 months to complete, weather and site conditions permitting. Please refer below for further information on the key design elements and dimensions.

Based on operational noise modelling and assessments undertaken along the Warringah Freeway Upgrade project alignment, the new noise wall is being installed on top of the existing retaining wall between the Cahill Expressway and McDougall Street. The noise wall will help reduce freeway operational noise for residents located adjacent to the Cahill Expressway once the Warringah Freeway Upgrade is complete. For further information about operational noise, please refer to our Operational Noise Review which can be found online at [nswroads.work/wfuportal](https://nswroads.work/wfuportal)

Work to install the new wall will involve:

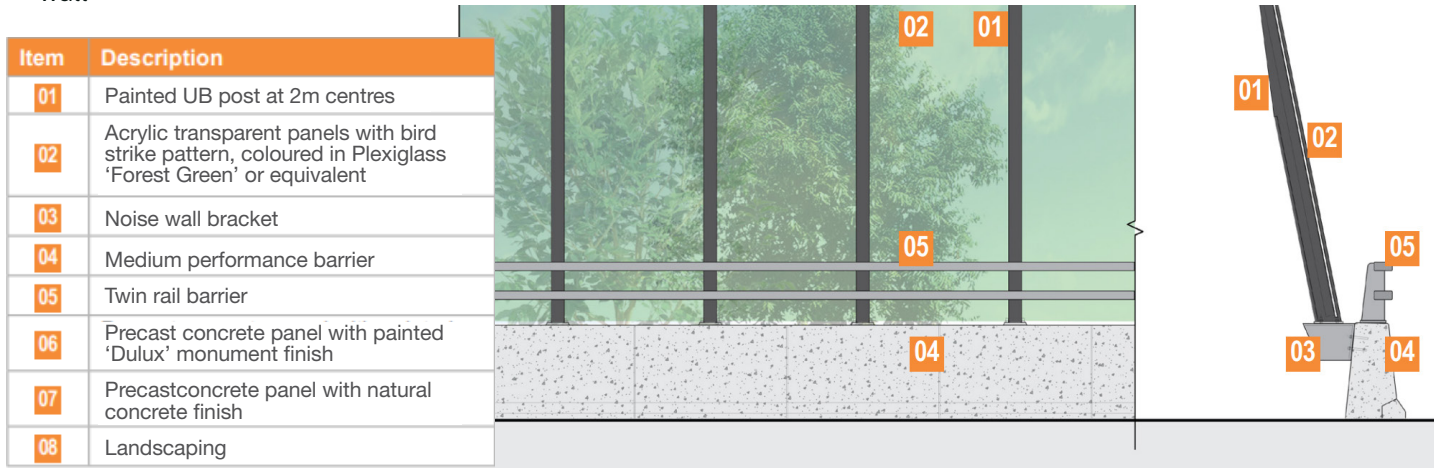
- setting up a temporary work area with fencing and signage
- drilling to install and fix steel posts to the existing retaining wall
- installing transparent acrylic panels to allow natural light to pass through and minimise overshadowing. The panels will be 5 metres high.
- working on elevated work platforms via McDougall Street to attach panels on top of the existing retaining wall

- painting the noise wall forest green
- intermittent closure of the High Street on ramp and Cahill Expressway
- temporary pedestrian and cycling diversions at Ennis Lane and McDougall Street
- temporary removal of up to nine parking spaces at the McDougall Street cul-de-sac from March 2024.

We will notify the community before we start work to install the new noise wall, traffic, pedestrian and cycling changes.



Map showing new transparent noise wall and temporary parking removal at the McDougall Street cul-de-sac, North Sydney.

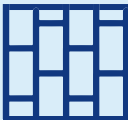


Artist impression of the new noise wall from the Place, Design and Landscape Plan (PDLP), chapter 7, page 16. For more information about noise and retaining walls, please view the PDLP chapter 'Walls' which can be found online at [nswroads.work/wfuportal](https://nswroads.work/wfuportal).

### Features of the new noise wall


#### Material

Transparent acrylic panel (Plexiglas soundstop). The transparent design also enables sunlight.




#### Colour

Forest green colour finish to also prevent bird collisions. See the colour palette in our PDLP at [nswroads.work/wfuportal](https://nswroads.work/wfuportal)




#### Dimensions

Approximately 70m (length), 5m (height) and 60cm (width), including the existing retaining wall.



#### Sound

'Soundstop' design will mitigate traffic noise to surrounding properties.



## Extended weekend work at High Street

In early March 2024 we will implement extended lane closures over weekends to safely complete some of our work at High Street. When extended traffic lane closures are in place, we can safely access work areas that we would not normally have access to for longer periods.

This increases our project's efficiency and reduces the overall impact to the community compared to delivering this work during single night lane closures during the week.

We will provide more information to the community about our extended weekend work and associated traffic changes once confirmed.

## Equipment required

While carrying out work to upgrade the High Street interchange, the equipment we will be using will include excavators, earth moving equipment, elevated work platforms, light and heavy vehicles, trucks, generators, lighting towers, rock saws, drills, jackhammers, road sweepers, concrete trucks, concrete placement tools, vacuum trucks, cranes, asphaltting and compaction equipment, concrete pumps, plate compactors, concrete saws, chainsaws, mulchers, roller trucks, and hand tools.

## Reducing impact to you

Our work activities will require the use of machinery that generates noise, light and vibration. We implement extensive controls to ensure any noise impacts are mitigated as much as possible.

For more information on how we manage and mitigate noise, please reference our 'Managing Construction Noise' worksheet, available online at [nswroads.work/wfuportal](https://nswroads.work/wfuportal).

We know our work can be disruptive and traffic changes can be frustrating for you.

We are committed to reducing our impact wherever possible to keep motorists on the Warringah Freeway and surrounding local road network moving, especially during peak travelling times.

Your safety is our number one priority, we ask you to please slow down and look out for road workers, visit [livetraffic.com](https://livetraffic.com) or download the app for live traffic updates to help plan your journey ahead.

For the latest work updates, please refer to our latest out of hours three month work notification or our six month look ahead for North Sydney and Neutral Bay notification (MW145S) which can be found online at [nswroads.work/wfuportal](https://nswroads.work/wfuportal)

## When will we be working?

Most of our work will take place during the day from 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and from 8am to 6pm on Saturdays.

For the safety of the public and our workers, and to minimise traffic impacts, we will need to use the site for some work at night from 8pm to 8am. We will notify local residents ahead of any night work.

## Subscribe to our updates

Stay in touch and keep up to date with all the activity in your area as we continue to upgrade the Warringah Freeway. Contact us via the details below to subscribe to email updates today.



For the latest traffic updates:  
Call 132 701  
Visit [www.livetraffic.com](https://www.livetraffic.com)  
Download the app:  
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## Stay in touch with us



1800 931 189



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



[nswroads.work/wfuportal](https://nswroads.work/wfuportal)



**Customer feedback**  
Transport for NSW, Locked Bag  
928 North Sydney NSW 2059



## Making a complaint about our work

To make an inquiry or a complaint about the project, you can call our community information line, which is available 24 hours a day and is attended during the project operation hours. Inquiries and complaints may also be received by the project email and by post.



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**.