



Place, Design and Landscape Plan is approved

Warringah Freeway Upgrade

July 2024



Transport for NSW acknowledges the Cammeraygal people of the Eora nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past and present.

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 active transport users.

The Warringah Freeway Upgrade project will transform the way people move across the area. Our vision is to improve the amenity for local communities, with a focus on vibrant and connected places linked to the surrounding landscape.

As part of our design process, we sought feedback from the community and key stakeholders on the draft Place, Design and Landscape Plan (PDLP) in June and July 2023. This has now been approved by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).



Image: Artist's impression of the Ernest Street shared user bridge.



What is the Warringah Freeway Place, Design and Landscape Plan?

The PDLP outlines the design and landscape objectives of the Warringah Freeway Upgrade (the project) and sets the framework for the project to deliver great places. Great places are the result of thoughtful design, bringing together various placemaking fundamentals – from landscape design and public art to carefully planned architectural elements such as lighting, signage and wayfinding. The draft PDLP went on public exhibition in June 2023 and the local community and key stakeholders provided feedback on a range of elements including visual amenity, walking and cycling bridges, landscaping and Connecting with Country features.

How your feedback has helped shape the design

Landscaping

The majority of feedback was about trees and landscaping. The project's landscape design strategy reinforces the existing landscape character of the corridor and uses local native species to revegetate the area. Following consultation, the vegetation palette has been increased to include more species endemic to the area and to connect with Country.

At the beginning of 2023, community consultation was undertaken for the Tree Replacement Strategy. This consultation sought feedback on the best outcomes for replacing trees in the North Sydney area.

Visual amenity of bridges, structures, walls and active transport

The visual amenity of bridges is a key element of the freeway upgrade. The bridge structures provide a unique opportunity to embed cultural storytelling through integrated artwork aimed at building community connection to the local place. Walls will be visually integrated into the road corridor and urban landscape setting and will feature simple design, neutral colours and non-reflective finishes.

Public domain

Public domain elements including footpaths, paving and edging treatments, fencing, lighting, bollards and seating, bus operator amenities and road furniture received feedback. The approved Plan focuses on accessibility, the living environment, cultural heritage as well as future connectivity through clear and engaging wayfinding.

Cultural storytelling

The designs will communicate a Connection to Country and generate appreciation of Country for people from a broad range of cultural and social backgrounds. They will include an acknowledgement of Country and reflect on Aboriginal history and storytelling.



Image: Artist's impression of the Warringah Freeway facing south. showing Falcon Street shared user bridge

Thank you for your feedback

We would like to thank all stakeholders and community members who provided feedback during the public consultation on the draft PDLP. We'd also like to again thank those who previously provided feedback on the Falcon Street southbound bus on ramp in August 2022 and the Ridge Street shared user bridge connection to Alfred Street North, Neutral Bay and the Alfred Street North road design alignment consultation in February 2023. The feedback on these two pieces of consultation contributed to the approved PDLP.

Overall, across all consultation, key issues raised and the number of responses are outlined in the table below.

Category	Number of responses
Trees	58
Departures (suggested amendments not relevant to PDLP)	57
Traffic	36
Connectivity	25
Design	24
Noise	14
Western Harbour Tunnel/ Beaches Link	9
Construction	4
Outside of PDLP scope	4
Parking	3
Connection to Country	1
Total	235

Due to the vast number of responses received during the consultation period in 2023, individual responses were not provided back to the public. Submissions were published on the Warringah Freeway Upgrade portal and remained there for one month after the exhibition closed on 13 July 2023. All submissions received (summarised in the table on this page), and the Project's responses to these submissions, were provided to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to consider as part of the approval process.



Image: Artist's impression of Ridge Street lookout.

Next steps

The Warringah Freeway project team will continue to provide information for the community about the work and what to expect during construction of the approved design elements.

Elements in the approved PDLP will be progressively installed as the Warringah Freeway Upgrade project continues, with completion expected in 2026. Some elements, including the Ernest Street shared user bridge, will be completed by the Western Harbour Tunnel project, due to its ongoing work in that location.

We will update you on progress during our ongoing engagement activities, such as pop-up information stands, attendance at markets and face-to-face street meetings.



Hard copies of the PDLP will be available at these events. The approved PDLP is available to view by scanning the QR code or online at nswroads.work/wfu-pdlp.



Image: Artist's impression of Falcon Street shared user bridge

Community engagement timeline

- 29 January to 30 March 2020**
Environmental Impact Statement on public display. 1454 submissions received.
- January 2021**
Minister's Conditions of Approval granted.
- September 2021**
CPB Downer Joint Venture awarded contract to design and construct Warringah Freeway Upgrade. Hassell architectural firm engaged by CPBD JV to prepare the PDLP.
- February 2023**
CPBD JV Design Partnership presented the draft PDLP to the State Design Review Panel on 23 February.
- June to July 2023**
Public exhibition of the draft PDLP.
- July 2024**
Approval of the final PDLP by DPHI incorporating feedback from the public exhibition.

Upcoming Western Harbour Tunnel PDLP

The Western Harbour Tunnel Stage 2 (WHT) draft PDLP will be released for community feedback in the coming weeks. This draft PDLP includes the project's critical surface and in-tunnel infrastructure.

To receive updates on the WHT draft PDLP, scan the QR code to subscribe to their major updates email list.



Contact us



Project Infoline **1800 931 189**



whtbl@transport.nsw.gov.au



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