



Inner West tunnelling update

Western Harbour Tunnel

May 2026



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which Western Harbour Tunnel is being constructed, including the Gadigal, Cammeraygal, and Wangal peoples, as well as the Aboriginal peoples of Emu Plains, and we pay respect to Elders past and present.

Western Harbour Tunnel is a major transport infrastructure project that will make it easier, faster and safer to get around Sydney.

Tunnelling activities are progressing well with roadheader excavation work now complete under Lilyfield, Rozelle, Balmain and Birchgrove. This is a major milestone for the project.

Our tunnel boring machines (TBMs) are planned to start excavation under Birchgrove in mid-2026, marking the next phase of tunnelling work.

What work are we doing?

Start of tunnel boring machine (TBM) excavation under Birchgrove

The TBMs will tunnel from Birchgrove under Sydney Harbour to Waverton, as shown on the map overleaf.

These machines will be operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the tunnels 35 to 50 metres underground.

TBM *Patyegarang*, will start tunnelling from mid-2026.

Our second TBM, *Barangaroo*, will follow soon after. They will start slowly at first and move forward by around 11 metres a day when fully operational.

More information is available in the **Fact sheet – tunnel boring machine** on our website.



Where

Tunnels under Lilyfield, Rozelle, Balmain and Birchgrove



Hours of operation

Tunnelling and tunnel fit out work is permitted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Cross passage excavation under Birchgrove

Cross passages will be excavated roughly every 130 metres to connect the two TBM tunnels. This excavation will be carried out progressively as the TBMs advance under Birchgrove towards the harbour. Remote controlled rock breaker machines will carry out the work 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It will take about three weeks to complete each cross passage.

You can see the locations of the cross passages on the map overleaf.

Tunnel fit out activities

We have completed more than half of our civil fit out of the tunnels and cross passages between Lilyfield and Birchgrove, with mechanical and electrical fit out work ongoing.

Tunnel civil fit out includes installing drainage systems, power, lighting, ventilation, road signs, fire safety measures, tolling and traffic management systems known as **Intelligent Transport Systems**.

Our work underground involves rock hammering, paving the road surface, and line marking on the roads within the tunnels. Some of this work will be noisy.

Noisy work will be done in line with the approved Environmental Protection Licence.

What will this mean for you?

You may experience temporary ground-borne noise and vibration while we are working in the tunnels. The levels of noise and vibration will vary depending on the ground conditions, depth of the tunnel, and the time of day. Background noise levels and the type of building you are in can also influence noise impact from tunnelling.

Location of work area



The location of your home in relation to the tunnels will determine how long you are impacted by our work.

If you would like a noise and vibration monitor installed at your property, please email our team on the contact information below.

Stay informed

You can read more about the timing and locations of our work in our weekly Inner West Sign up by scanning the QR code below. Also in our website, on the **Construction Notifications Map**.

Contact us



Project Infoline **1800 931 189**



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Visit our website at
nswroads.work/whportal



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