

# Western Harbour Tunnel

## Work notification | Inner West tunnelling

February 2025



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.

The project has reached a major milestone with the completion of Stage 1 tunnelling between Rozelle and Birchgrove by Stage 1 contractor John Holland CPB Contractors (JHCPB).

Stage 2 contractor ACCIONA will continue tunnelling from Birchgrove beneath Sydney Harbour to the Warringah Freeway and deliver the tunnel fit out of both Stages 1 and 2.

### Start of tunnelling – Stage 2

In February 2025 JHCPB hand over the Stage 1 tunnels to ACCIONA.

The Stage 1 tunnels are located below Rozelle, Balmain and Birchgrove with the entry and exit points to the tunnels at City West Link, opposite The Crescent, Annandale.

Stage 2 construction activities including further tunnelling excavation will start from **Friday 28 February 2025**.

Learn more over the page.



### Come and meet the project team

We invite the community to come and meet the project team who will be available to share information and answer questions you may have. You can see us at the two drop in sessions detailed below:

#### Drop-in community information session for Birchgrove

Balmain Town Hall, 370 Darling Street, Balmain on **Saturday 15 February 2025 from 10am to 12pm.**

#### Drop-in community information session for Rozelle and Lilyfield

Hannaford Community Centre, 608 Darling Street, Rozelle on **Saturday 22 February 2025 from 10am to 12pm.**



We will be carrying out a range of construction activities before Western Harbour Tunnel opens to traffic in 2028.

**Construction activities planned to start in 2025 include:**

## Tunnel construction – north of Cove Street, Birchgrove from March 2025

### Construction of the underground launch chambers using roadheaders from March 2025

Most of our tunnelling is being done with roadheaders, however we will use two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) to tunnel under Sydney Harbour from Birchgrove to Waverton.

We will use roadheaders to excavate two TBM launch chambers below Birchgrove, one for each TBM. More information is available in the fact sheet 'Tunnelling from Birchgrove to Waverton' on our website.

The TBMs will arrive in Sydney during 2025 and once the underground launch chambers are ready, we will start to assemble the TBMs underground. We will be accessing the work area from the Stage 1 tunnels in Rozelle.

We will provide more information about TBM tunnelling later this year.

### Roadheader excavation

Excavation of the TBM launch chambers and most of our tunnelling is being done through Hawkesbury sandstone, a coarse rock that is ideal for excavation due to its uniform structure and strength.

Tunnelling will be carried out by roadheaders that use a rotating head to slowly excavate the rock. This is followed by the installation of ground support including rockbolts and spraying concrete.

This is the same methodology we have been successfully using to excavate the tunnels for Western Harbour Tunnel.

Extensive monitoring of the ground is carried out both inside the tunnel and on the surface to pick up any ground movement during tunnelling. Every section of newly excavated tunnel is reviewed by our geotechnical and engineering teams, who then determine the type of roof support required.

## Cross passage excavation in Rozelle

To complete the tunnels excavated in Stage 1 and gain access to continue tunnelling below Birchgrove, we will excavate a cross passage under Evans Street near Percy Street in Rozelle. The cross passage will support our construction activities and improve worker safety. It is located roughly 36 metres below ground, 30 metres long, four metres wide and six metres high.

## Tunnel fit out activities

We will be working in the Stage 1 tunnels from late February 2025. This includes installing stormwater and groundwater drainage systems, electrical conduits, road signs, lighting, electrical panels, pavement construction, line marking and painting.

When we have completed our excavation, the tunnels will be fitted-out with operational infrastructure. This includes power, lighting and ventilation, fire safety, tolling and traffic management controls (also known as an intelligent transport system or ITS). The tunnels will then go through an extensive testing process before opening to traffic in 2028.

## Road work on City West Link and The Crescent

We will carry out night work on the City West Link to adjust the traffic signals to enable right turn movements into and out of the tunnel portals for construction vehicle traffic. We will carry out this night work from **10pm to 5am, Monday to Friday**, weather permitting.

We are also improving signage and traffic control systems on City West Link between the WestConnex M8 portals and Victoria Road, and The Crescent, Annandale. This work will assist traffic flow during peak periods as well as during emergencies.

As there is a high volume of traffic on City West Link, we will be required to work at night to complete this work safely and minimise impact on traffic flow.

We will notify nearby residents ahead of any night work.

## Our work hours

Our standard construction hours are **7am to 6pm Monday to Friday** and **8am to 6pm on Saturdays**.

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







Work is underway this year to create a direct connection to Sydney's motorway network via the M8 tunnels below Rozelle. This connection is a vital step in efficiently managing construction logistics and enabling our trucks to access the tunnels without relying on surface roads.

By directing construction vehicles through the motorway network, we are further reducing traffic impacts and enhancing safety for the community. This approach is part of our commitment to minimising disruption while delivering critical infrastructure that will transform travel across Sydney.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we work to streamline construction and improve outcomes for everyone.







## Our construction support sites

To support our ongoing work in the tunnels, we will be operating from temporary construction sites at Glebe Island on James Craig Road and the Motorway Operations Complex on Lilyfield Road.

These sites contain facilities for workers including parking, temporary offices, storage for equipment and materials and worker amenities.

We will also be operating shuttle buses for our workers to move between our construction sites and work areas underground. This will help remove worker parking on local streets and is part of our commitment to reduce the impact of our work on the community.

## Managing our impact

We manage our work to minimise the impact it may have on you and the environment. This includes:

- installing fencing for safety and security
- operating shuttle buses for our workers to reduce our use of local street parking
- minimising construction noise as much as possible
- monitoring our work activities for noise and vibration
- directing our lighting away from buildings at night
- installing signs to provide notice of traffic changes
- traffic controllers in place for the safety of the community and our workers.

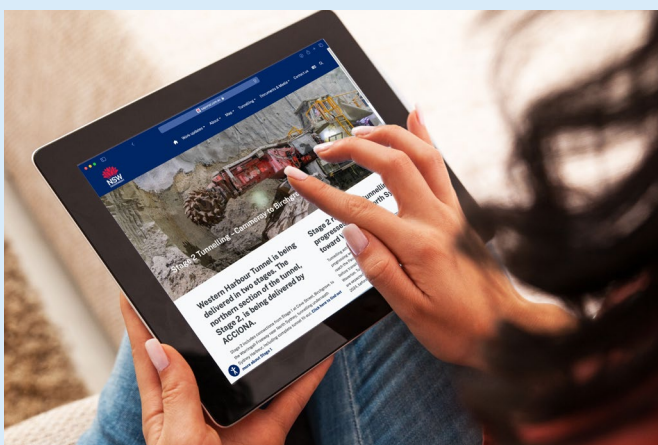
## Your property during tunnelling

We understand concerns about the potential impact of vibration and settlement from tunnelling on property. Ground movement does not necessarily result in property damage, and in fact it is highly unlikely. Buildings experience ground movement naturally through environmental changes including seasonal climate variations, vegetation such as tree roots, structural effects (different building types of age of construction) or ground effects (reactivity to soil). Properties within 50 metres of our tunnel alignment will be offered a free property condition survey (PCS).

Even though it is highly unlikely for any damage to occur from our tunnelling, we encourage anyone eligible for a PCS to take up the offer. We will send a letter to eligible properties about how to accept a PCS before we start tunnelling near you.

## Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about the progress of our work on the Western Harbour Tunnel project.



The project website is kept up to date with upcoming activities, such as temporary traffic changes, night work, noisy work activities and construction progress. Please visit [nswroads.work/whtportal](https://nswroads.work/whtportal) to see our construction activities and more information about the project.

We encourage you to sign up for email updates to receive the latest information about our work activities and to help reduce the number of paper notifications in your letterbox.

We are here to answer your questions and we look forward to meeting you at our upcoming drop-in information sessions during 2025.

**Thank you for your ongoing patience and cooperation while we complete our work on the Western Harbour Tunnel.**



## Learn more about the project

We have a range of information about tunnelling including progress updates on our website. We also have fact sheets on the following topics:

- Tunnelling Birchgrove to Waverton
- Tunnelling under Sydney Harbour
- Tunnel boring machines
- Noise and vibration
- Property condition surveys
- Subsurface acquisition
- Worker parking and haulage.



Please scan the QR code to view these fact sheets on our portal.



## Come and talk to our team at the Community Information Centre.

The Western Harbour Tunnel Community Information Centre provides a modern and comfortable space where you can come and meet with the community engagement team to ask questions and learn about the project.

The space also includes interactive resources and up-to-date images from our temporary construction sites, to provide visitors with further insight into the project.

The Community Information Centre is located at Level 9, 60 Miller Street, North Sydney and is open weekdays from 9am to 5pm (excluding public holidays).

Subscribe to our email list to stay up to date on upcoming opportunities to meet the team.

## Contact us



Project Infoline **1800 931 189**



**whtbl@transport.nsw.gov.au**



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Visit our website at  
**nswroads.work/whportal**



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