

# Community connections, progress and highlights

## M6 Stage 1

Community Update | Autumn 2024



### Impressive progress for the tunnel portal

The future entry and exit of the M6 Stage 1 twin tunnels are taking shape, with the final roof slab poured in February, and 30% of excavation from the opening of the tunnel portal to our Rockdale Bicentennial Park tunnelling site complete.

In March, the team poured the first of 20 base slabs, which form the foundation of the future road commuters will travel on. Approximately 700m<sup>3</sup> of concrete was poured for the first base slab, with more than 6600m<sup>3</sup> of concrete poured and 2000 tonnes of steel reinforcement used to complete the roof slab.



Bicentennial Park tunnel portal, January 2024

Work continues to ramp up for the remainder of the year with the team preparing to reinstate the existing creek over the roof of the tunnel portal. At the end of the project, the tunnel portal will be covered in vegetation and Rockdale Bicentennial Park will be reinstated with new facilities for the community to enjoy, such as picnic areas, playgrounds, fields, viewing platforms, a shared pedestrian and cyclist pathway and revitalised wetlands.

### Upgrading utilities to benefit the community

Our teams are currently investigating and removing redundant utilities as well as upgrading stormwater drainage, sewer and water main services on President Avenue, Princes Highway and West Botany Street.

The existing stormwater pipes have been in operation for over fifty years. The single 600mm pipes will be replaced with twin pipes with a capacity of 1050mm each, allowing for increased and improved stormwater drainage during rain and extreme weather events.

Some activities are completed during continuous weekends of work. Working nonstop throughout the weekend allows our teams to conduct complex utility excavation work which may not otherwise be able to be completed during a standard night shift. The safest and quickest way to complete these activities is to work continuously from 8pm on a Friday until 5am the following Monday. Two weekends were completed in March and another two are anticipated to commence from May 2024.



## UDLP approval overview

Use the map below to navigate all the elements of the UDLP and artist impressions (trees and landscape shown at maturity)



**11** Youth hub including multi purpose court areas in Rockdale Bicentennial Park



**12** Cultural circuit and community lawn in Rockdale Bicentennial Park



**14** Community lawn in Rockdale Bicentennial Park



**21** Entry and exit ramp at President Avenue



**22** Pedestrian and cyclist bridge over President Avenue



**23** Pedestrian and cyclist bridge at Scarborough Park



- Key Elements**
- 01 Five-kilometre shared pedestrian and cyclist pathway
  - 02 Upgraded refuge island crossing with holding rails
  - 03 White Oak Reserve boardwalk
  - 04 New signalised mid-block crossing at West Botany Street
  - 05 Pedestrians and cyclists bridge over Muddy Creek
  - 06 New raised mid-block crossing at Bruce Street
  - 07 Fitness station
  - 08 New signalised mid-block crossing at Bay Street
  - 09 Kings Wetland boardwalk
  - 10 Motorway Operation Centre
  - 11 M6 Stage 1 mainline tunnels
  - 12 Youth hub play area
  - 13 Community lawn
  - 14 Amenities building
  - 15 Playground
  - 16 Pedestrians and cyclists bridge over Bicentennial Park Ponds
  - 17 Wetland terraces
  - 18 Playing fields
  - 19 Barbecue area with picnic shelters
  - 20 Cultural circuit with seating and interpretative signage
  - 21 Carparks
  - 22 Tunnel portal
  - 23 Pedestrian and cyclist bridge over President Avenue
  - 24 Pedestrian and cyclist bridge and boardwalk over Scarborough Park

**4** Shared pedestrian and cyclist bridge over Muddy Creek



**14** Children's playground in Rockdale Bicentennial Park



**16** Terraced wetlands and lookouts in Rockdale Bicentennial Park



**21** Entry and exit ramps at President Avenue



**22** Driver's view west along President Avenue



**22** Pedestrian and cyclist bridge over President Avenue

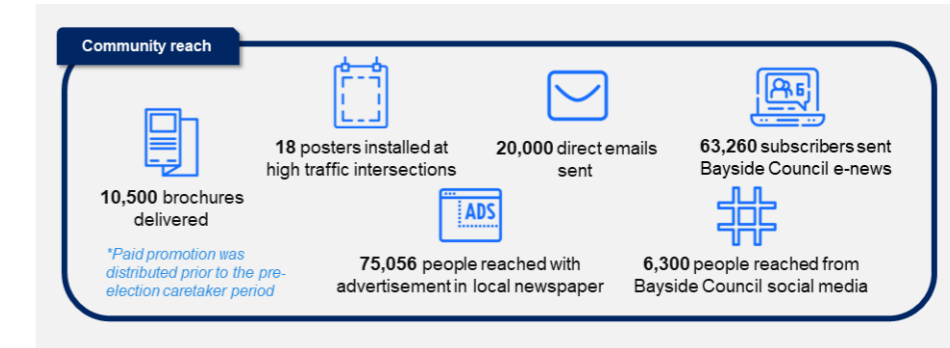


## Urban Design and Landscape Plan receives partial approval

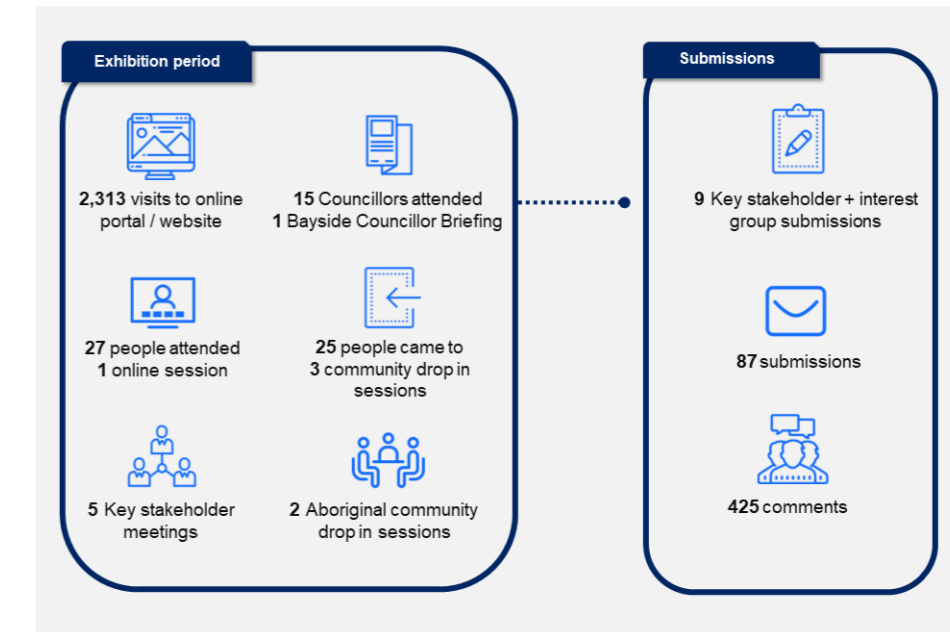
We are excited to share a significant update on the progress of the M6 Stage 1 Urban Design and Landscape Plan (UDLP). The Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure (DPHI) has granted approval for key elements, marking an important milestone in the process of transforming parklands that Connect with Country and enhance the natural environment for the community to live, play and experience. The approval covers:

- reinstatement of Rockdale Bicentennial Park
- the tunnel entrance at President Avenue
- the shared pedestrian and cyclist pathway.

### Pre exhibition period community promotion



### Exhibition period public participation



### What we heard

The community feedback provided insights into how the space will be used in the future, emphasising the importance of the new parks and their role in the health and wellbeing of people living, playing, and working in the area. The shared pedestrian and cyclist pathway and the reinstatement of Rockdale Bicentennial Park received strong support. Comments were raised about the alignment proximity to the community, regional connectivity, public safety and speed, parkland maintenance and access, among others. All submissions from the public exhibition have been considered in detail and we thank the community for their interest and participation.

The design of the new Marsh Street Park in Arncliffe continues to be finalised and will be reviewed by DPHI at a later stage.

### The consultation process and your feedback

In February 2023 we asked for your feedback on the draft UDLP. For a period of 28 days you had the opportunity to provide your input. We received 87 submissions in total from local residents, community groups and organisations as well as Bayside Council.

### UDLP submitted to DPHI for approval

Following the public exhibition period, the UDLP was updated by the Project and provided to DPHI.

### Visit our portal

Head to [nswroads.work/M6portal](https://nswroads.work/M6portal) to view artist impressions, and find out more information about the UDLP or scan the QR code.





## Community survey results

Thank you to members of the community that completed our fourth community sentiment survey which provided the opportunity to express opinions on a range of project-related topics. Most respondents noted they prefer to receive project updates by email, with letterbox drop notifications the second preference. Keep an eye out for our next community survey. In the meantime you can contact the project 24 hours a day via our **Community Information Line: 1800 789 297** or **Email: info@m6stage1.com.au**

## Creating meaningful change through Aboriginal participation

In recent years, there has been a growing push for greater diversity and inclusion in the construction industry, including greater representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The NSW Government is focused on strengthening education and employment to improve Aboriginal participation. Their policy on Aboriginal Participation in Construction seeks to empower First Nations people, communities and businesses to drive industry participation and stronger economic outcomes.

M6 Stage 1 are proud of how the project has been contributing to these targets through engaging First Nations businesses and creating meaningful employment.

As at March 2024, the project has spent \$35 million overall on Aboriginal participation in construction, exceeding the \$26 million target. The project has engaged over 35 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses that are Supply Nation certified. These businesses are delivering packages of work right across the project scope.

M6 Stage 1 is also driving Aboriginal participation outcomes through providing employment to First Nations people. Since commencement, there have been 44 directly employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees (cumulative) across the project, which equates to 4.5% of our directly employed team.

# \$26m

target exceeded for Aboriginal participation spend

# 35

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses engaged



First layer of water proofing at Arncliffe, January 2024

## Tunnelling advancements

Tunnelling is well underway across the alignment stretching from Marsh Street in Arncliffe to the future tunnel portal entry and exit point at President Avenue in Kogarah. We have successfully reached over 70% tunnel excavation across the project alignment.

Did you know that we have 12 roadheaders operating across the project? Some sites use 35 tonne excavators instead of roadheaders including for the excavation of the tunnel portal.

Over the last six months, the fit-out phase has progressed at Arncliffe which involves the installation of drainage systems, underground concrete structures and preparing the tunnel road pavement. Pre-pavement works are well underway, which involves installing ground water control systems, as well as applying waterproofing and shotcrete lining. We have paved over 4000m<sup>2</sup> within the last quarter of 2023, which means 6% of the total road pavement is complete.

The next steps following the fit-out phase will involve installation of safety barriers, creating emergency exit passages, as well as mechanical and electrical work.

Tunnelling works at Bicentennial Park and a section of the southbound off-ramp tunnel at Rockdale remain on hold following two separate subsidence incidents in early March. Remediation works have commenced at the industrial estate near West Botany Street in Rockdale. Tunnelling will not recommence at these locations until further reviews are completed in conjunction with Transport for NSW and the Independent Certifier.

Community safety, along with the safety and well-being of our M6 Stage 1 workforce remains our priority.



St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School students introduced to many traditional Aboriginal tools created using natural resources, November 2023

## Broadening student horizons

M6 Stage 1 have been working with local schools to introduce students to different aspects of major construction projects; from engineering to environment, quality, safety, and everything in between.

We recently held our first Indigenous Cultural Awareness School Engagement workshop at St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Brighton-Le-Sands. Sixty students from Year 1 and Year 2 were educated about Indigenous culture through interactive games, music and storytelling.

In addition to educating students and sharing information about our project, our school engagement initiatives have introduced students to the different roles for women within the construction industry. Both Presbyterian Ladies College (PLC) Croydon and Moorefield Girls High School students also recently had the opportunity to visit our Rockdale and Arncliffe tunnelling sites.

Truck and road safety proved to be a topic of interest, delivered by one of the project's female moxy drivers. Awareness of trucks from the perspective of the truck driver is important for both road users and pedestrians.



Moorefield Girls High School students underground at our Arncliffe site, November 2023

Highlights included demonstrating the space required for trucks when turning, truck driver blind spots and heavy vehicle stopping distances. This insight is incredibly relevant to students who may be new drivers on the road, or about to start their learner driver journey.

This is merely a glimpse into our ongoing collaboration with schools. Together we design a learning program that suits their curriculum with the hope of leaving a positive and lasting legacy for the community, as well as inspiring future generations to consider careers in construction.

## Contact us



Project Infoline and 24-hour Construction Response Line **1800 789 297**



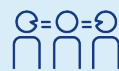
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