

New and extended clearways on New South Head Road from Rushcutters Bay to Double Bay Frequently asked questions – May 2018

The NSW Government is funding this project as part of its \$121 million Clearways Program, which aims to reduce congestion and delays on Sydney's roads.

Roads and Maritime Services has received many complaints and requests to fix congestion on New South Head Road through Edgecliff, with particular frustrations around weekend delays and congestion on local roads.

Roads and Maritime is responding to our customers by extending and introducing new weekday and weekend clearways on Bayswater Road and New South Head Road from Rushcutters Bay to Double Bay. The clearways will operate eastbound between Waratah Street, Rushcutters Bay and the parking bay before Bay Street, Double Bay. Westbound the clearways will operate between the existing parking west of Manning Road, Double Bay and McLachlan Avenue, Rushcutters Bay.

The following information provides answers to frequently asked questions relating to the introduction of new and extended clearways.

What is the Sydney Clearways Strategy?

The NSW Government announced the Sydney Clearways Strategy in December 2013 as one of its key initiatives to reduce congestion on Sydney's major roads.

The strategy identifies over 1000km of state roads on key corridors across Sydney, which may benefit from the introduction of new and extended weekday and new weekend clearways, to improve the movement of goods and people. These routes were identified, based on an assessment of the following criteria:

- directional traffic flows exceed 800 vehicles per hour per lane¹
- travel speeds are 30km/h or below during peak periods.

Corridors identified in the strategy, are currently under further investigation. Along with detailed parking and traffic analysis, the following two criteria now being considered:

- if the road is a strategic bus or freight transport corridor for moving people and goods
- whether alternate public parking close to local businesses can be found, taking into account the quantity and usage of parking removed to extend or introduce a new clearway.

Over 390km of new and extended weekday and weekend clearways have already been installed across Sydney, since December 2013.

For more information please refer to the **Sydney Clearways Strategy** and the Sydney Clearways Program page for the latest information on current projects.

What are the key benefits of clearways?

Clearways:

- reduce congestion by making an additional lane available to traffic
- improve journey times, allowing drivers to get to their destination sooner and more reliably
- improve safety by removing parked vehicles from the kerbside lane
- have an immediate positive impact on traffic flow as it uses existing road space for the movement of vehicles
- improve the efficiency of intersections along the corridor, as all lanes are used.

¹ Kerbside lane is excluded, as cars can be parked even when 'no parking' or 'no stopping' restrictions are in place and illegally parked vehicles are unable to be towed under these restrictions

Why is New South Head Road being considered for clearways?

The New South Head Road corridor is a key state road (number 173) connecting the Sydney CBD to the eastern suburbs. It was gazetted in 1993. This arterial road is managed and maintained by Roads and Maritime.

Only parts of the corridor were identified in the 2013 Clearways Strategy. However, Roads and Maritime Services have received many complaints and requests to fix congestion on New South Head Road through Edgecliff, with particular frustrations around weekend delays and congestion on local roads.

Along with an assessment of the volumes and travel time, our investigations have confirmed that:

- it is a tertiary freight route in the NSW Freight and Port Strategy
- it carries a number of local bus routes
- alternate business parking can be found close to local businesses.

Based on the investigation and the objectives of the Sydney Clearways Strategy, New South Head Road meets the requirements for new weekend and extended weekday clearways.

Why will the clearway extend east of the New South Head Road/Ocean Street intersection?

Our studies found that around two-thirds of vehicles continue along New South Head Road to Double Bay through the New South Head Road/Ocean Street intersection.

By removing parking between Rushcutters Bay and Edgecliff, we can ensure two traffic lanes are available to Bay Street, Double Bay. This will ensure that the merge or pinch point isn't just moved further along.

Will clearways extend through Double Bay shops?

There are currently no plans to introduce clearways in Double Bay, where a third lane starts on the eastern side of Bay Street.

What happens now and how will clearways help?

Vehicles travelling from the city on William Street or exiting the Cross City Tunnel are forced to merge from six lanes down to three lanes through Rushcutters Bay and one lane through Double Bay. Vehicles turning right onto New McLean Street and Ocean Street often block the right hand lane. Additionally vehicles wanting to park in the kerbside lane have to manoeuvre from the middle lane, causing New South Head Road to be completely blocked at times. This leads to extensive delays and congestion.

The existing afternoon transit lane (T2) restriction successfully manages congestion during the busy afternoon peak and often makes the trip quicker than during other times of the day.

The new and extended clearway hours will help address congestion by ensuring that at least two lanes are available to traffic eastbound through Edgecliff when traffic conditions suggest it's required.

How were the clearway hours determined?

Parts of the corridor were identified in the Sydney Clearways Strategy. However, Roads and Maritime Services have received many complaints and requests to fix congestion on New South Head Road through Edgecliff, with particular frustrations around weekend delays and congestion on local roads.

This section of New South Head Road past New Beach Road is a 6 lane road. Investigations carried out in November 2015 found that during most weekdays and on the weekend around 30,000 vehicles travel eastbound. Nearly 20,000 vehicles continue along New South Head Road, past Ocean Street into Double Bay.

Vehicles travelling through Edgecliff are consistently slower than 30km/h at all times of the day.

The investigations showed that this section of Bayswater Road and New South Head Road would benefit from clearways from all day weekday and weekend clearways, including the inter-peak period, based on hourly traffic volumes and travel times.

What are the new clearway hours?

Roads and Maritime will be introducing the following clearway hours in both directions on Bayswater Road and New South Head Road between Waratah Street/McLachlan Avenue, Rushcutters Bay and Bay Street, Double Bay:

Weekdays	Weekends and public holidays
6am to 7pm	9am to 6pm

For consistency across the road network and to make it easier for road users, clearway hours are standard across the network. Wherever possible, we use the following standard hours:

- weekday morning (6am – 10am)
- middle of weekday (10am – 3pm)
- weekday afternoon (3pm–7pm)
- weekend short day (9am – 6pm)
- weekend long day (8am – 8pm)
- 24 hours across seven days (At All Times).

There are no changes to existing parking restrictions outside the new clearway hours on the New South Head Road corridor.

What travel time savings are expected from the new clearway hours?

Roads and Maritime is expecting road users to save up to three minutes, when travelling eastbound during the morning peak period and on weekends, with substantial improvements expected in the middle of weekdays as well.

We are also expecting improvements during afternoon peaks as many vehicles currently overstay parking beyond 3pm. Clearways allow us to tow these vehicles to ensure the smooth flow of traffic, reducing the incidence of illegally parked vehicles.

What parking will be removed from New South Head Road?

In the eastbound direction, parking will no longer be available:

- between McLachlan Avenue and Neild Avenue on the southern side of William Street.
- between New Beach Road and Ocean Avenue
- in front of residential properties between Ocean Avenue and the start of the parking bay between Henrietta Street and Bay Street.

In the westbound direction (towards the city) there will be no changes between Henrietta Street, Double Bay and McLachlan Avenue, Rushcutters Bay.

Why is parking being removed from the state road?

The primary purpose of a state road such as New South Head Road is to efficiently and safely move people and goods across Sydney.

Any parking currently permitted on the state road is not specifically allocated to residents, businesses or properties.

Parked vehicles impact on the primary purpose of the state road. Roads and Maritime manage parking restrictions to ensure these roads are fulfilling their primary purpose across the state road network.

We understand that the new and extended clearway hours will change parking conditions in front of properties, which will cause some inconvenience for residents, visitors and business customers.

What have our parking investigations shown?

An independent traffic study, completed in November 2015, considered information on the number of vehicles parked and duration of stay, to understand the changes that visitors and business customers would need to make.

The study found that between:

- McLachlan Avenue and Neild Avenue, there were up to seven vehicles parked and 84% stayed for less than two hours
- New Beach Road and Mona Road, there were up to 28 vehicles parked, some illegally, and 83% stayed for less than two hours
- New McLean Street and Ocean Avenue, there were up to 16 vehicles parked, some illegally, with 91% stopping for less than two hours
- Ocean Avenue and Bay Street, there were up to 32 vehicles parked, including seven in the parking bay with 44% staying for less than two hours.

We also investigated the destination of road users who parked on New South Head Road. We found that only 20–30% of people parking in front of businesses are visiting nearby businesses, with the rest picking up or dropping off passengers, or heading elsewhere including nearby residences, parks and schools.

We found 70–90% of local businesses customers are not dependent on state road parking. In the survey area, only 10–30% of local business customers were observed to park on New South Head Road.

Following the installation of the new and extended clearway hours, all vehicles would need to park in carparks or driveways, in local side streets or in the Edgecliff Centre and Eastpoint Food Fair public car parks.

Where else can I park?

Roads and Maritime has been working with Woollahra Municipal Council to consider new options for alternate parking, close to the shops, to supplement current parking options such as parking on side streets and parking in carparks at the Edgecliff Centre and Eastpoint Food Fair.

Some of the options that were considered are:

- construction of a new car park in Rushcutters Bay Park or other green space
- acquisition of government or privately owned properties
- changes to existing residential parking schemes in New Beach Road, Oswald Street, Mona Road, Darling Point Lane and Darling Point Road, Ocean Avenue, New McLean Street, Mahoney Lane and Reddy Street, and Glenmore Road.

Due to the impact to resident parking schemes, residential streets and open space, these were not progressed. Our investigation did not find any available land to provide additional parking.

How will visitors, tradespeople and deliveries be able to park to access my property?

During clearway hours, tradespeople, delivery trucks and visitors are encouraged to park within properties wherever possible.

If parking is not available on your property, tradespeople, delivery trucks and visitors will need to park in a local side street and walk to your property. This is similar to all other state roads where clearways and 'No Stopping' restrictions are in place.

Deliveries that require vehicles to stop on New South Head Road should be arranged outside the clearway hours.

Can Roads and Maritime improve the traffic flow on New South Head Road at New McLean Street?

We expect the clearways on New South Head Road to improve the efficiency and operation of the signalised intersections as a result of the additional lane available for traffic.

Roads and Maritime is working with council to investigate improvements which could be undertaken at the intersection of New South Head Road and New McLean Street. This has resulted in the removal of parking spaces from New McLean Street.

Transport for New South Wales is currently developing a new kiss and ride facility and other improvements for Edgecliff Station as part of their Transport Access Project. More information can be found at transport.nsw.gov.au.

How can I access Edgecliff Station?

Buses, taxis and hire cars will still be allowed to stop on New South Head Road during clearway hours to drop off and pick up passengers.

However, private vehicles will not be permitted to drop off and pick up passengers on New South Head Road. This will have to happen in nearby side streets, at the new kiss and ride facility on New McLean Street, or by accessing publically available carparks under the Edgecliff Centre and Eastpoint Food Fair. It is currently not permitted to pick up or drop off at any time in bus, taxi or mail zones when travelling westbound, or during the afternoon T2 restriction eastbound.

The new kiss and ride facilities on New McLean Street are part of the Edgecliff Station Upgrade, a Transport Access Program proposal managed by Transport for NSW. It includes the provision of three new kiss and ride spaces on New McLean Street to improve access to the station. These new formal pick-up and drop-off spaces are expected to reduce illegal drop-offs that impede traffic on New South Head Road.

Rail users should also consider other methods of travelling to Edgecliff Station including walking, cycling or bus travel.

What do I do if I see a vehicle parked in a transit lane or clearway?

The Transport Management Centre (TMC) manages incidents affecting traffic flow. Anyone can call the TMC on 131 700 to report vehicles parked in clearways and they can arrange a tow truck.



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1300 706 232.

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact our project team:



1300 706 232



clearways@rms.nsw.gov.au



rms.nsw.gov.au/clearways

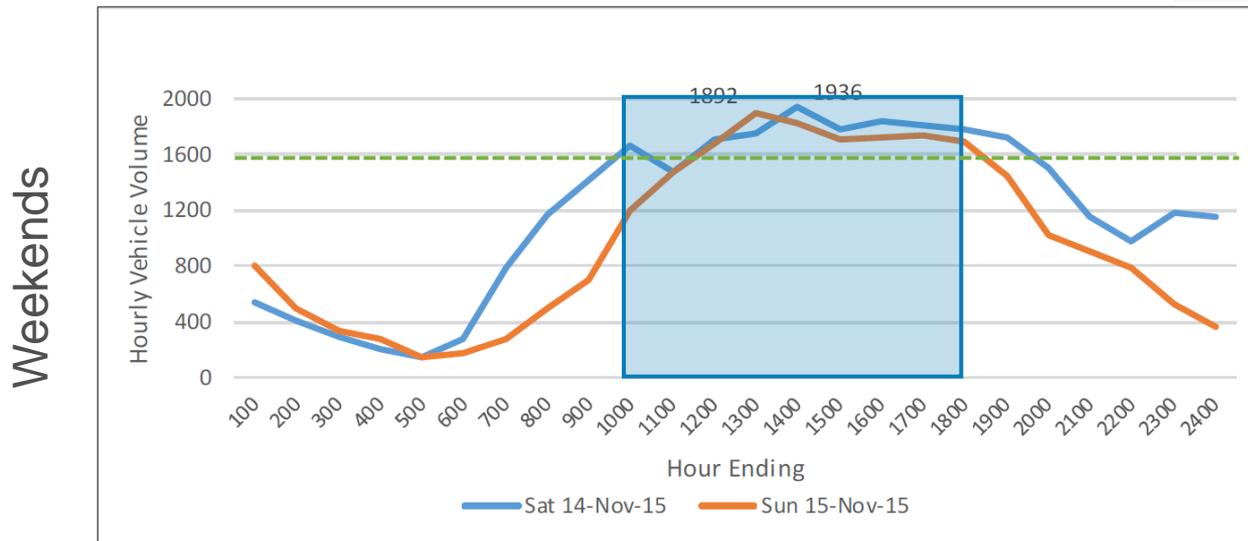
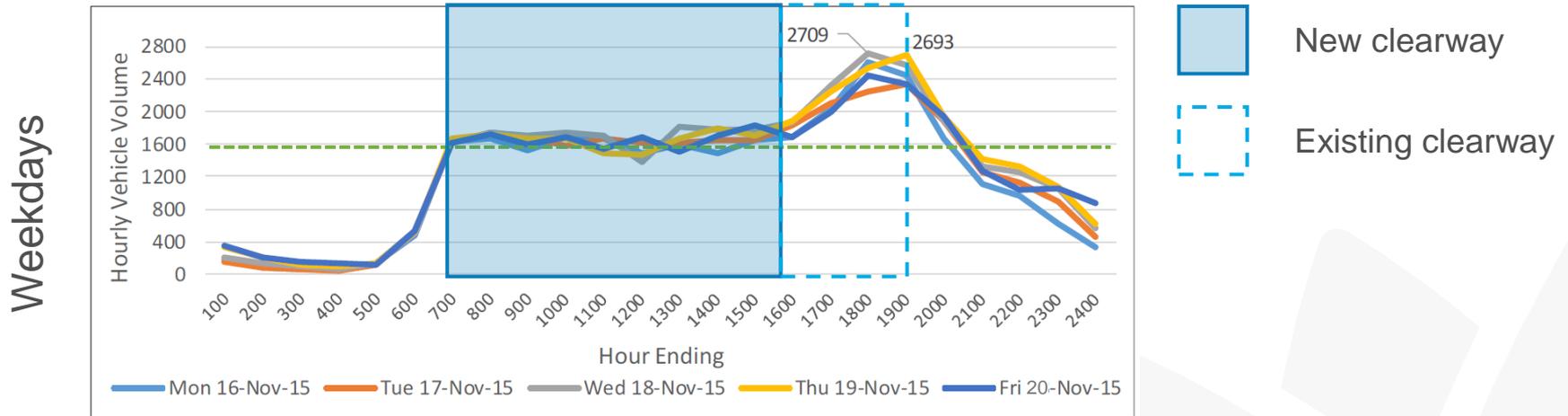
New South Head Road

Between Rushcutters Bay and Double Bay

Traffic Data Summary

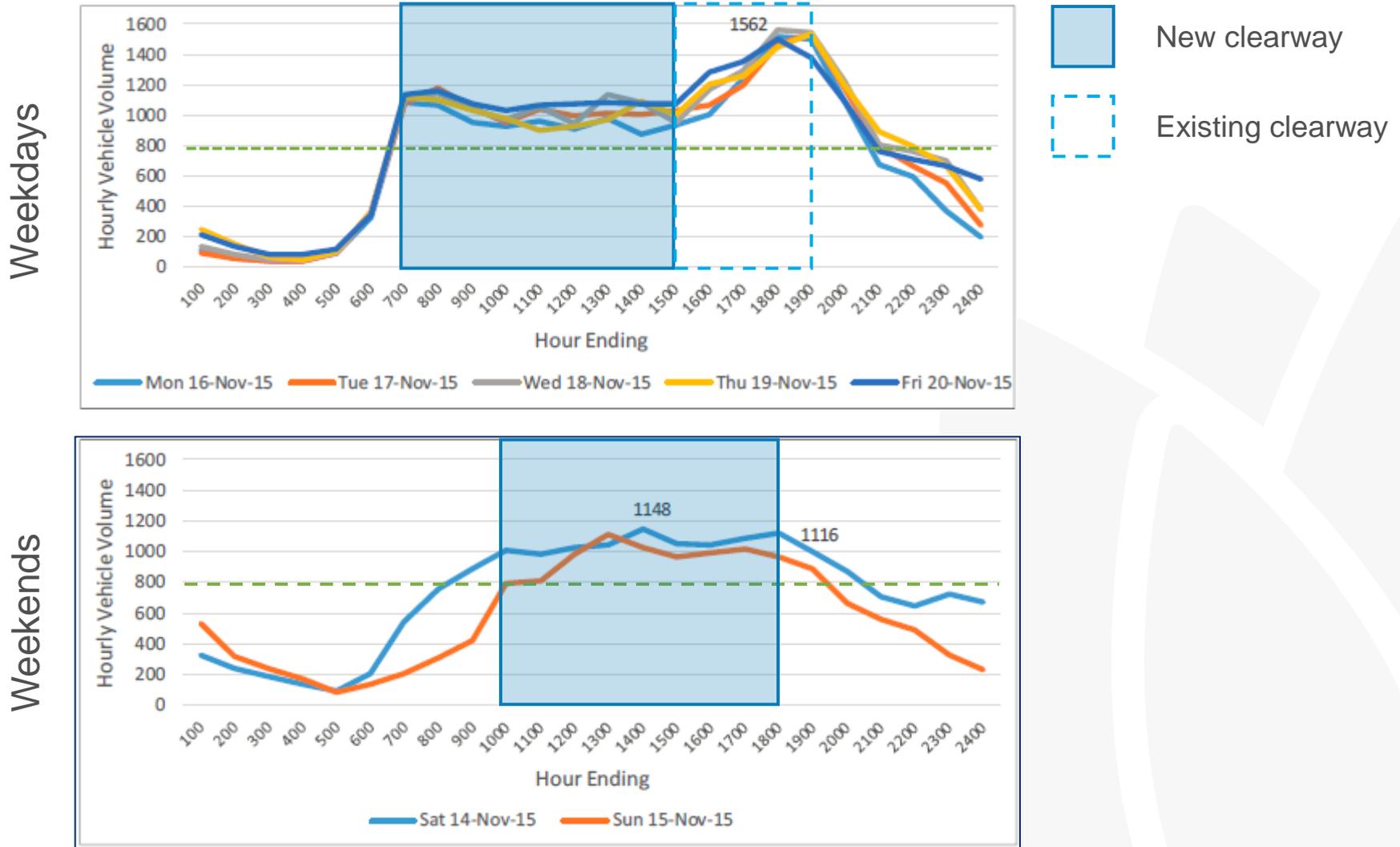


Traffic on New South Head Road (combined lanes) – Eastbound between New Beach Road and Mona Road



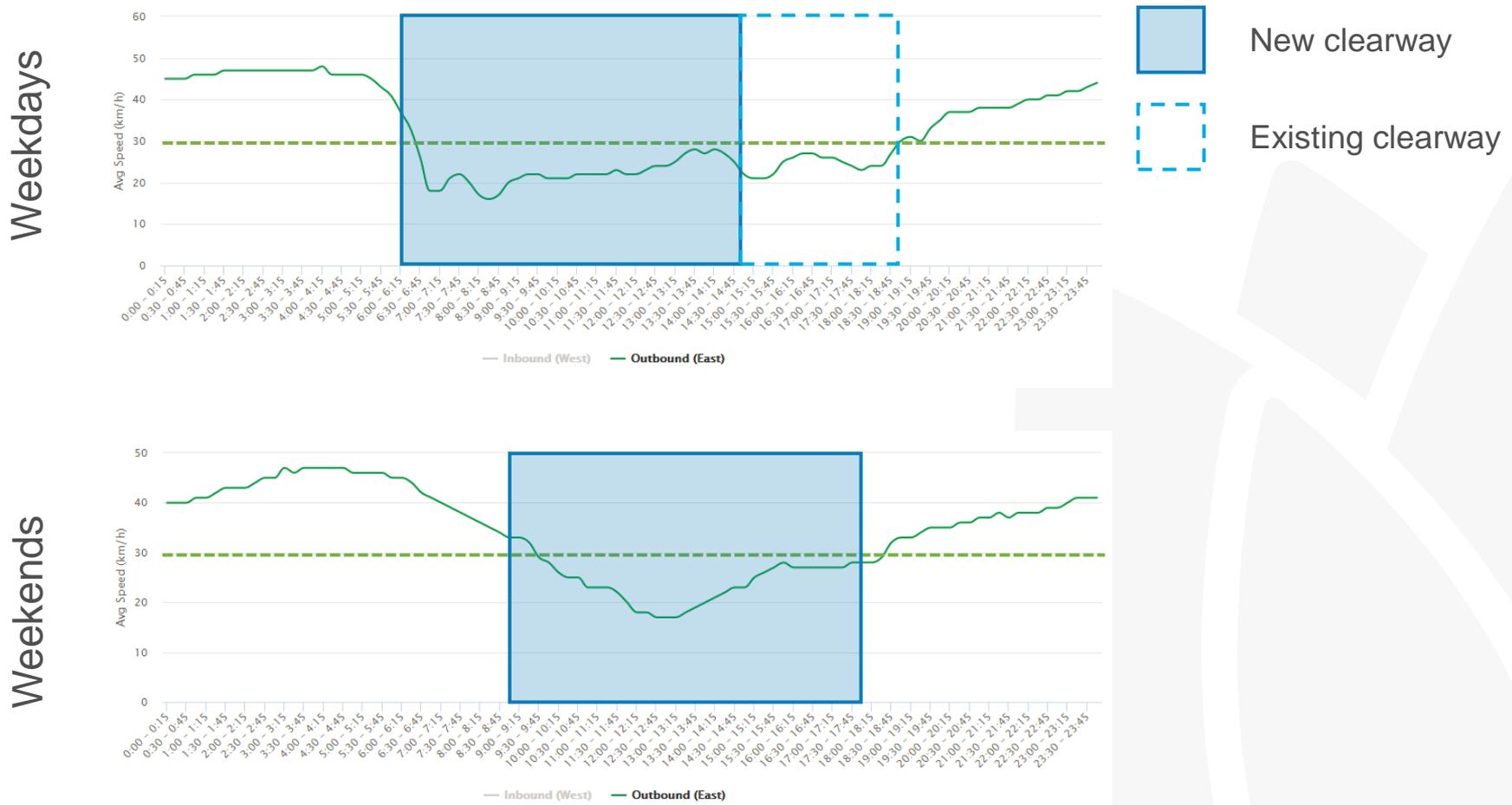
Volume shown at 7am is the volume between 6am and 7am.
 Data collected on New South Head Road between New Beach Road and Mona Road.
 Note: current traffic volumes eastbound on New South Head Road are constrained by parked vehicles.

Traffic on New South Head Road (combined lanes) – Eastbound near Bay Street



Volume shown at 7am is the volume between 6am and 7am.
 Data collected on New South Head Road near Bay Street.

Travel speeds on New South Head Road – Eastbound between Waratah Street, Rushcutters Bay and Knox Street, Double Bay



Historical data (1 May 2017 to 31 December 2017, excluding school and public holidays).
 Source: RMS Travel Time Analysis Tool (using Google Travel time data) Link Number 0045 to 0140.