November 2019

NSW GOVERNMENT

Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade

Community Update

The Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link program is an important part of our vision to create an integrated road and public transport network, balancing the needs of motorists and local communities.

The program consists of:

- **Western Harbour Tunnel** which stretches from the Warringah Freeway at Cammeray, across Sydney Harbour, to the WestConnex interchange at Rozelle.
- **Beaches Link** which provides an alternative to the Spit Bridge and Military Road for the Northern Beaches, connecting through to the Warringah Freeway and Gore Hill Freeway.

We will also be upgrading the connection point of the two tunnels, the Warringah Freeway.

Since mid-2018 we have been in a process of extensive community consultation on the Proposed Reference Designs for these projects.

Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade

Following consideration of your feedback, we have prepared a detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. The EIS assesses the expected impacts of the construction and operation of this project including environmental and social, proposed locations for construction sites, truck movements and how we are managing the potential impacts to local flora and fauna.

We expect the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to place this EIS on public exhibition for your important feedback in early 2020. Our commitment is for the public exhibition period to be at least six weeks to allow more time for you to review the information, ask questions of our project team and make a submission to DPIE.

If you would like to be notified once the EIS is on display, and you do not currently receive project updates, please call or email us with your details so you can be kept up to date.

Beaches Link

We have now updated the Proposed Reference Design for Beaches Link. This includes a number of key construction sites and design features of the project, including:

- Flat Rock Drive temporary tunnelling site
- Wakehurst Parkway temporary tunnelling site
- a refined construction site layout and access road alignment at Balgowlah.

Because of these changes, it will take us more time to finalise the EIS for public exhibition. This is so we can complete the necessary investigations and assessment work, and prepare the appropriate documentation.

For more information about these changes, please visit our website rms.nsw.gov.au/whtbl

We expect to have the Beaches Link EIS available for public exhibition from mid-2020.

Less congestion

B Line and bus commuters to **interchange with Sydney Metro and Sydney Trains**

Project benefits

Western Harbour Tunnel delivers a new crossing of Sydney Harbour and creates a western bypass of the Sydney CBD.

The project includes upgrading four kilometres of one of Australia's busiest roads, the Warringah Freeway.

Moving traffic underground will improve urban amenity

Streamline the Warringah Freeway

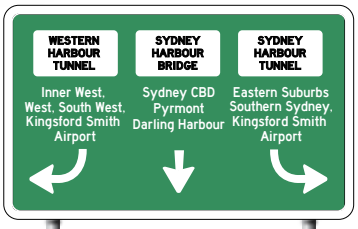
B Line and bus commuters to interchange with Sydney Metro and Sydney Trains

Less congestion

New shared cycle and pedestrian pathways

Take pressure off Sydney Harbour Bridge and Tunnel

Integrated transport for faster, more reliable journeys



Change how we cross Sydney Harbour

Travel time savings

- Sydney Olympic Park to North Sydney up to 20 minutes
- Leichardt to North Sydney up to 20 minutes
- North Sydney to Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport up to 15 minutes

Inner West

A key priority for us during construction of the project is to minimise the impact to the local community. To help us achieve this, we will be transporting tunnel spoil using water transportation and via the main road network – not through local streets.

We recognise there are other major infrastructure projects in this area. We are partnering with the Rozelle Interchange team and they are building the Western Harbour Tunnel entry and exit points at the Rozelle Rail Yards site to reduce ongoing temporary disruption to the local community. We will also continue to coordinate with the Rozelle Interchange and Sydney Metro West project teams to manage the cumulative impact in the area.

Government-owned land at White Bay and Glebe Island will be used as sites during construction to minimise the acquisition of private property and open space.

Using these sites will also enable some construction transport to take place via Sydney waterways, further reducing temporary impact on your local streets.

Open space

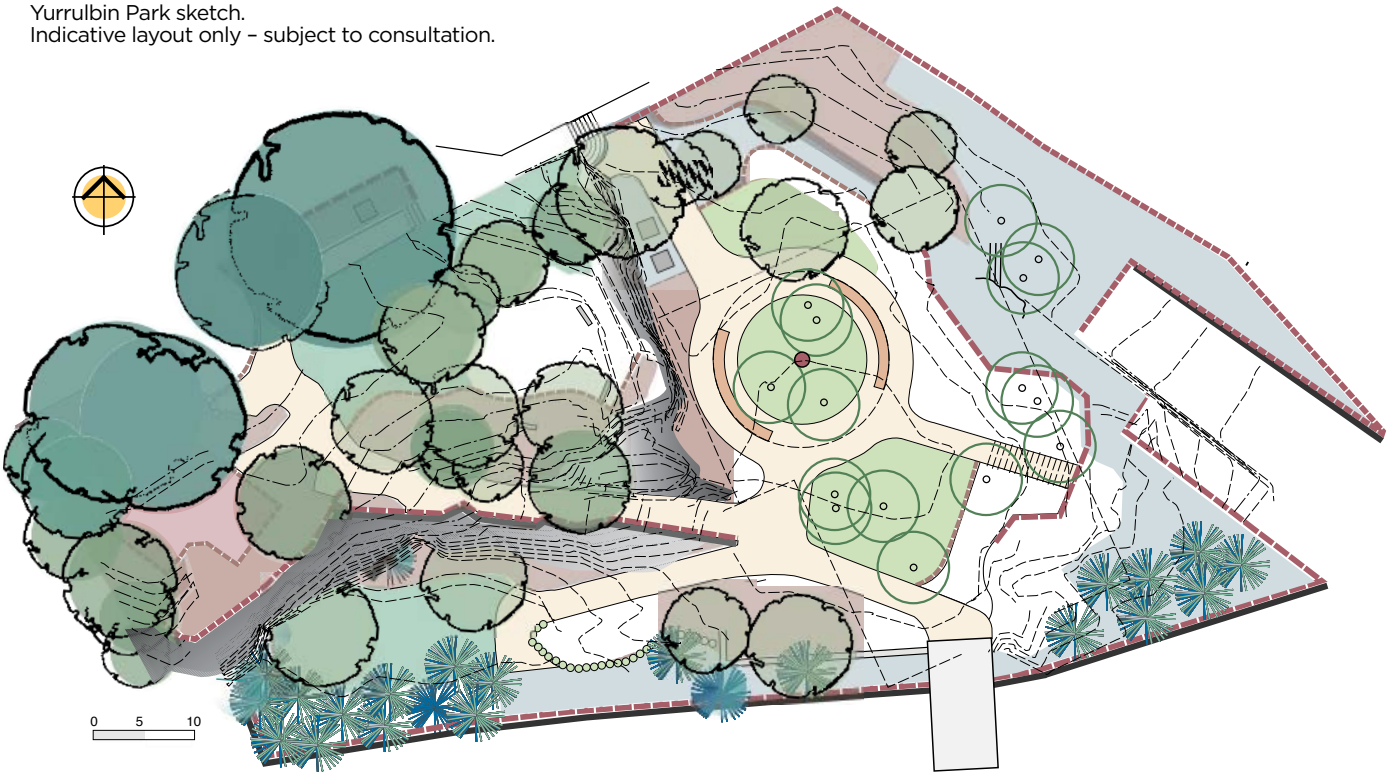
We have heard that Birchgrove Park and Birchgrove Oval are important sources of open space for the Birchgrove community. Both facilities will remain untouched throughout the duration of construction.

We have engaged the original landscape architect who designed Yurulbin Park to assist us with the site layout to protect key features of the park during construction. We are also working with him on the enhancement and refurbishment of the open space after our work has been completed, to realise his original vision for the park, as shown in the figure below.

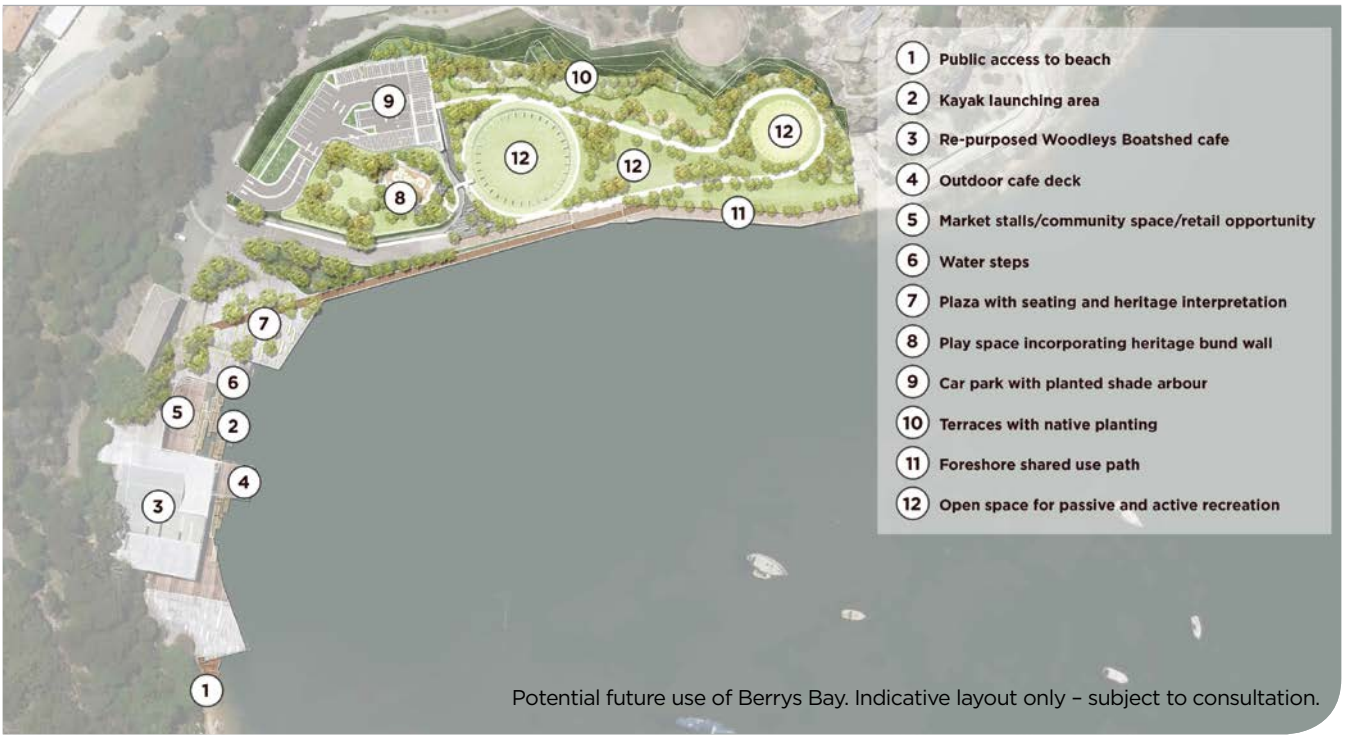
Open space given back to the community

Water based transport reducing impact on local streets

Yurrulbin Park sketch.
Indicative layout only – subject to consultation.



Waverton



Potential future use of Berrys Bay. Indicative layout only – subject to consultation.

Future use of Berrys Bay

We understand the importance of the Berrys Bay area as part of the Sydney Harbour foreshore. We will work closely with the community to design and shape the future Berrys Bay after we have finished construction.

We will have a dedicated consultation period seeking your input on the future of Berrys Bay, which will be a separate process to Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway EIS.

We are committed to working with the community and key stakeholders to understand their views on the future use of Berrys Bay, so we can provide facilities that consider the diverse needs of the community.

We plan to start engaging with you in 2020 ahead of construction starting. We are committed to delivering an area for all of the community to enjoy.

As part of this process, we will establish a reference group, with representatives of stakeholder groups, the community and independent experts, to support us with the development of the final vision for the site.

To register your interest in the future use of Berrys Bay and be kept up to date please call us on 1800 931 189 or email whtbl@rms.nsw.gov.au.

We will be limiting the impact on local roads by accessing the Berrys Bay construction site by water where possible.

Our construction traffic will access the site via Balls Head Road and marine vessels will use Sydney Harbour for major deliveries and spoil haulage.

Artist's impression of Woodleys Shed, Berrys Bay. Indicative layout only.

How we've responded to your feedback on open space

During our community consultation on the Proposed Reference Design, we heard that retaining open space and the conservation and protection of heritage items is important to the Waverton community. Based on this feedback, we will:

- improve public access to the beach at Berrys Bay and work with North Sydney Council on providing boat or kayak storage racks at the beach before construction starts
- not impact Balls Head Reserve, the Coal Loader facility or Carradah Park
- not impact Woodleys Shed, or the sandstone wall at Berrys Bay site
- relocate *MV Cape Don* and *MV Baragoola* nearby to ensure they are not damaged during construction.

North Sydney and Cammeray

Residents in North Sydney and Cammeray will benefit from access to the new Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link tunnels, as well as from improvements to the Warringah Freeway making it easier, faster and safer to access the Sydney Harbour crossings.

Locals will benefit from travel time savings of up to 20 minutes from North Sydney to Sydney Olympic Park, up to 20 minutes from North Sydney to Leichardt and up to 15 Minutes from North Sydney to Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport.

Following community feedback we will be maintaining the connection between the Warringah Freeway and Ernest Street by retaining the Ernest Street ramps. We will also improve pedestrian and cyclist paths on Ernest Street Bridge, High Street Bridge and Ridge Street Bridge.

To minimise temporary traffic impacts on your local community during construction of our project, we will be transporting tunnel spoil via the main road network – not through the local streets in North Sydney, Neutral Bay or Cammeray.

A key priority for us when developing the project was to minimise the number of residential properties that needed to be acquired for our temporary construction sites and permanent motorway facilities.

We are planning to use Government-owned land within Cammeray Golf Course near the Warringah Freeway during construction and for some permanent facilities.

How we've responded to your feedback on open space

We understand open space is a key concern for the Cammeray and North Sydney community.

Based on your feedback, we have revised the design in this area to reduce the size of our construction and permanent footprint from the Proposed Reference Design released in 2018.

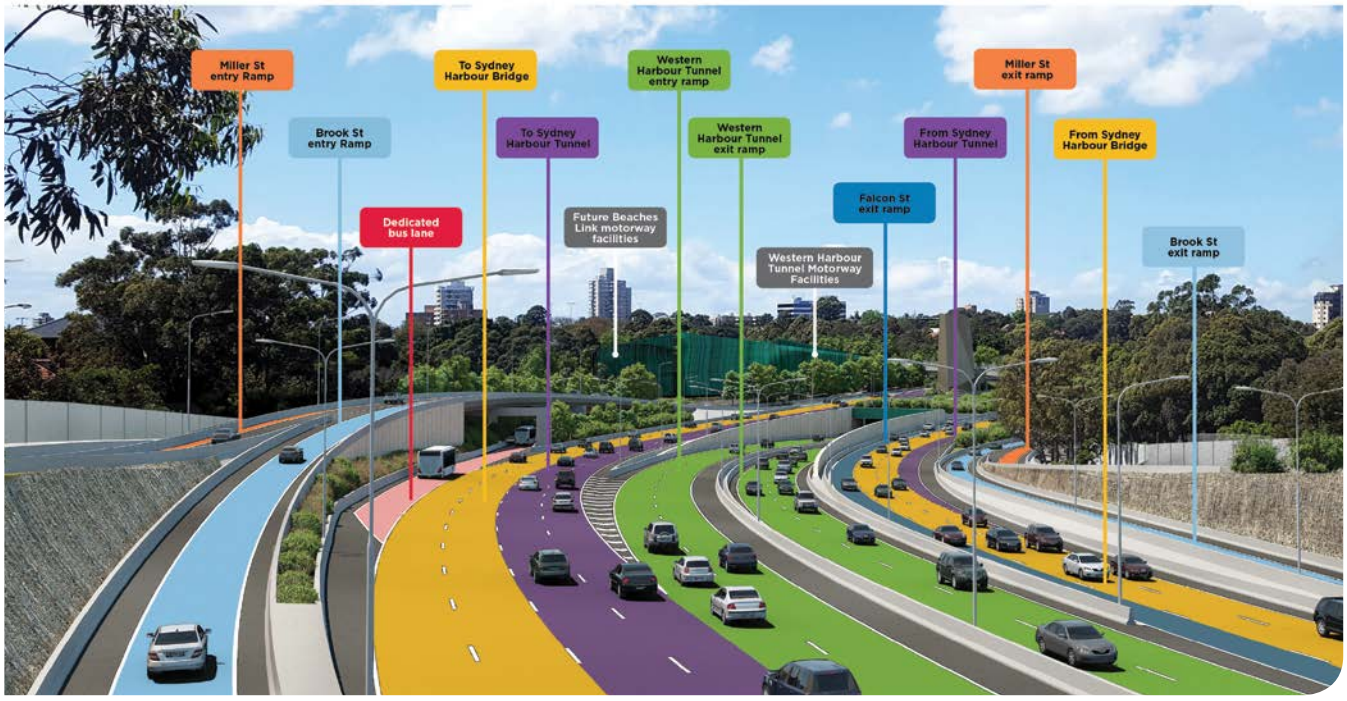
We are working closely with the Cammeray Golf Club to develop a strategy that will minimise impacts to the people who use the course and have included provisions for the Golf Course to remain open as a nine hole course, if desired.

We are also planning to carry out more work from the Cammeray construction site to minimise impacts at St Leonards Park and Anzac Park and avoid impacts to the football pitch, skate park, croquet club and tennis courts at Cammeray Park.

Warringah Freeway Upgrade lane configuration

We will be upgrading around four kilometres of the Warringah Freeway between the northern end of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Willoughby Road overpass to improve safety and provide more reliable journeys for commuters, freight and bus customers. This includes the provision of a dedicated continuous southbound bus lane from Miller Street to the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The Warringah Freeway will be reconfigured in the Cammeray area (as shown in the figure below) to allow the new connection to the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link tunnels, and make it easier to access and use the harbour crossings. This includes local widening into the Cammeray Golf Course to create space for the new tunnel entry and exits.



Next steps

DPIE will place the EIS on display for community comment in early 2020 and advertise the public exhibition dates in metropolitan and local newspapers.

This exhibition process is your opportunity to have your say on the development of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade, and we encourage you to provide your feedback.

During the public exhibition period we will be hosting community information sessions in your local area, where you can meet members of the project team, provide comments and have your questions answered about our project.

More information will be communicated on the dates, times and locations of the sessions once the EIS is on exhibition.

To make sure you never miss an update please contact us so we can add you to our project distribution list.

Contact the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link team

Never miss an update

Please be sure to sign up to our distribution list. By signing up you'll never miss an update about the project. You can call, email or write to us to let us know your details.

rms.nsw.gov.au/whtbl

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Roads and Maritime Services
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131 450

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 931 189.

Privacy Roads and Maritime Services, is collecting your personal information in connection with the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade ("the Project"). In addition to collecting your name and contact details we may collect other information such as your submissions and other communications with us. We will retain and use this information for consultation purposes, including communications and analysis in connection with the Project. We will not disclose your personal information to third parties unless authorised by law and if we include your submissions in any public report we will not identify you. Providing your personal information is voluntary but if you do not provide it we may not include you on our stakeholder database and you might miss further consultation opportunities. Your personal information will be held by us and you can contact us to access or correct it. Please write to us at either whtbl@rms.nsw.gov.au or Roads and Maritime Services, Locked Bag 928, North Sydney NSW 2059. RMS.19.1478