



# Beaches Link

## Willoughby fact sheet



Visualisation of the Naremburn/Willoughby construction site from Flat Rock Drive looking south.

Beaches Link will revolutionise how we move between the Northern Beaches and the rest of Sydney, by providing a new high capacity road that has been designed to integrate with the public transport network.

It will provide a new crossing of Middle Harbour connecting Frenchs Forest, Seaforth and Balgowlah to Artarmon and Cammeray, where it will connect to the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway.

Beaches Link is designed to improve and expand the express bus network, including enhancing B-Line to provide travel time savings of up to 40 per cent for bus users.

You will have a more reliable trip, bypassing 19 sets of traffic lights through The Spit, Mosman and Neutral Bay. The program will save up to 54 minutes on a trip between Frenchs Forest and Rozelle and up to 32 minutes between Manly and Macquarie Park.



### What this means for Willoughby

You will benefit from less traffic on your local roads and village precincts as the heavy traffic to and from the Northern Beaches, which passes through your area, will be moved underground.

When Beaches Link opens we expect there will be less traffic passing through Willoughby which means less 'rat running' and safer, calmer residential streets in your area.

#### Less traffic on

#### North Shore roads

**Spit Bridge - 40% less**

**Roseville Bridge - 25% less**

**Eastern Valley Way - 35% less**



A dedicated, continuous southbound bus lane from Miller Street to the Sydney Harbour Bridge will also improve journey times and reliability for bus commuters travelling from Willoughby to the city.

You will also benefit from improvements to the Warringah Freeway and the additional cross-harbour capacity provided by Western Harbour Tunnel, which will provide easier, faster and safer journeys across Sydney Harbour to the Eastern Suburbs, Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport, the Sydney CBD or Inner West.

## Temporary Naremburn / Willoughby construction site

We need a temporary construction site that provides us with access to the middle section of the tunnel, which is in the Naremburn /Willoughby area. This is so we can safely and efficiently construct the tunnel. It also means our work can be done faster and we can deliver the benefits of Beaches Link sooner.

Because of the size and scale of the project, it is simply not practical to only undertake tunnelling from just the end points of the project.

In July 2018, we released a Proposed Reference Design for the Beaches Link, which identified two options for a temporary intermediate tunnel construction site on Flat Rock Drive at Naremburn:

- 'Option A', at the site of the current Flat Rock Baseball Diamond
- 'Option B', a re-vegetated area on the eastern side of Flat Rock Drive.

We have heard your concerns about these sites and we have taken the time to investigate a number of alternative options.

We already have a construction site at Artarmon and we will be doing some tunnelling from this site. Work from this end however will be limited by a number of technical constraints.

We need a temporary construction site that provides us with access to the middle section of the project. Without it, it would be like trying to renovate a house with the only access being through the front door.

## Preferred location

Following extensive assessment of these options and consideration of community feedback and other impacts, **we have selected the area on the eastern side of Flat Rock Drive (Option B)** as the preferred location for the temporary tunnel site, to remove spoil from the tunnel and provide access for plant, equipment and workers.

**You told us you value open space and sporting precincts. Using this site will mean a greater distance between the site and the sporting facilities and we won't be impacting Willoughby Leisure Centre indoor facilities, netball courts or car park.**

It will also avoid the need to acquire residential property or impact the baseball diamond, and provides trucks with direct access to and from the site via a main road.

## Activity on the site

The site will be set up as a construction site and the majority of the tunnelling work will take place up to 20 storeys underground, with the access ramp designed to minimise disturbance of former landfill.

Once we are tunnelling, the main activity at this construction site is the removal of spoil. This is brought to the surface inside an acoustic shed, where it is loaded into covered trucks which minimises the dust and noise.

The trucks will transport the spoil from the site via Flat Rock Drive and Brook Street to the Warringah Freeway. This will only occur during standard construction hours – from **7am to 6pm Monday to Friday** and **8am to 1pm Saturday**.

## Temporary impact to Flat Rock Reserve

The total site area is just under 1.5 hectares, which is around five per cent of the Flat Rock Reserve bushland. We have located the site to avoid impacts to old growth trees.

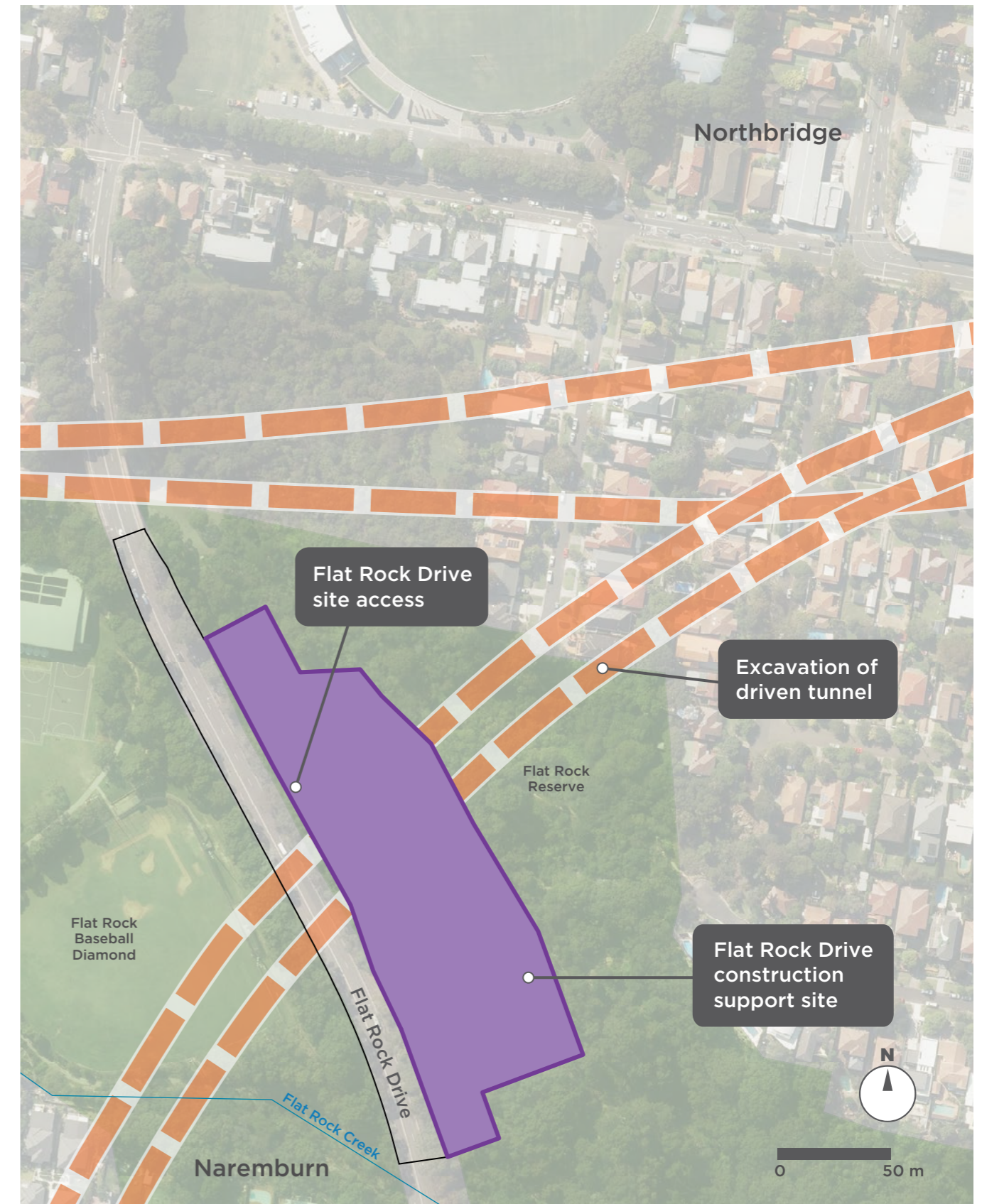
For the 4-5 years our construction site is here, the remainder of Flat Rock Reserve will be available for use by the community. We will ensure the shared user paths remain connected around the eastern side of our site and the underpass of Flat Rock Drive will remain open throughout construction.

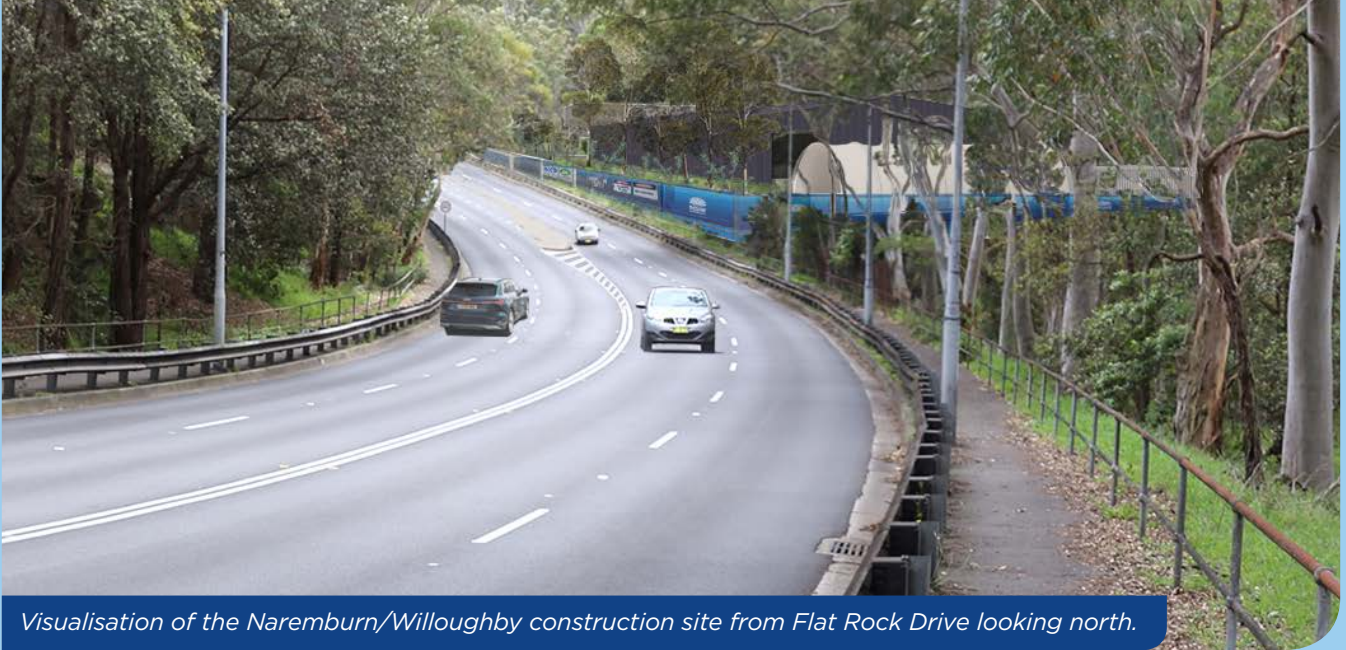
The site will be at road level, with visual impacts largely contained to Flat Rock Drive itself. The site will be screened on all the other three sides by trees as part of the bushland.

## Removing waste

We have heard your concerns about using this site because of its history as a waste facility and have designed our tunnel access ramp to minimise disturbance of landfill. Only about one per cent of the material we need to remove at this site is landfill – the rest will be clean sandstone. In accordance with the Environment Protection Authority's preferred treatment methods, it is likely we would keep the landfill onsite and re-bury it with a specially designed layer, a process called capping. Any landfill removal will be carried out under well-established policies and procedures. We will be managing this site appropriately.

## Temporary construction site map





Visualisation of the Naremburn/Willoughby construction site from Flat Rock Drive looking north.

## Improving open space

We understand the importance of public open space to the community. This construction site is temporary and will be returned to the community when we are finished. We are not leaving any tunnel infrastructure at this site.

When we are done, there will be opportunities to provide new recreational facilities or reinstate the site to bushland, depending on community preferences. We will work closely with Willoughby Council on the final form of the site in consultation with the local community.

## Next steps

Thank you for your patience while we refined the design. This gave us the opportunity to consider community feedback and wherever possible reduce the impact of the project.

Now we have updated the Reference Design for Beaches Link, it will take us more time to finalise the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public exhibition. This will allow us to complete the necessary investigations and assessment work, and prepare the appropriate documentation.

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 are expecting the Beaches Link EIS to be on public exhibition from mid-2020, when you will be invited to make a submission.

## 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.

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