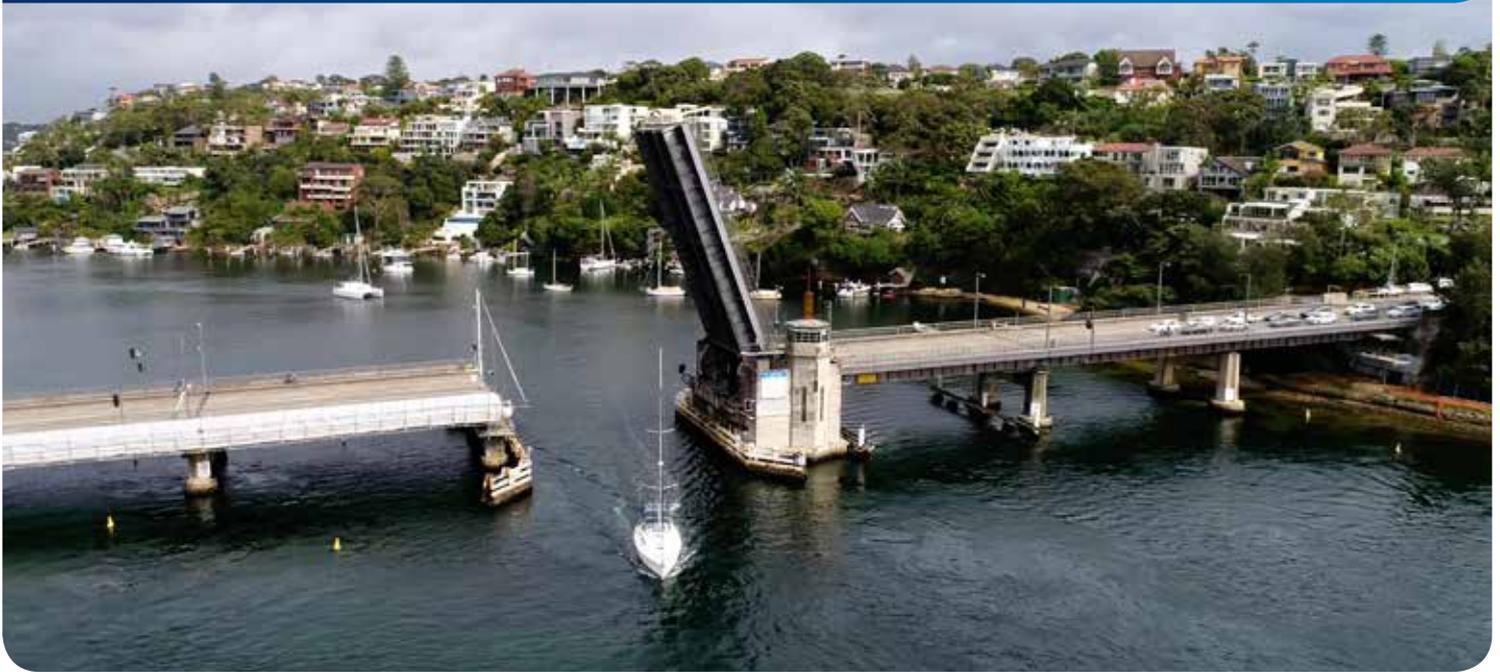


Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link



The NSW Government has announced the preferred route, the start of geotechnical drilling and the commencement of a market sounding process for the delivery of Beaches Link and the Western Harbour Tunnel.

Beaches Link is a tunnel which will connect to the Warringah Freeway, cross underneath Middle Harbour connecting with the Burnt Bridge Creek Deviation at Balgowlah and upgrade the Wakehurst Parkway to two lanes each way, between Seaforth and Frenchs Forest.

The Western Harbour Tunnel will connect to WestConnex at the Rozelle Interchange, cross underneath Sydney Harbour between the Birchgrove and Waverton areas and connect with the Warringah Freeway at North Sydney.

Over the next six months, up to 235 borehole sites will be tested in suburbs including Balgowlah, Seaforth, North Sydney, Neutral Bay and Cammeray. These investigations will feed into engineering design, final costings for the project and further route analysis. This testing will begin around the Warringah Freeway at depths of up to 150 metres shortly after Easter.

Roads and Maritime Services will commence consultation with 71 property owners in these areas. It is too early to confirm whether these properties will be impacted,

but we want to contact owners early in the process, so they are engaged and informed of the investigations underway.

Further work over the coming months will include detailed financial analysis, discussions with the private sector over funding options, community consultation, as well as extensive field work such as geotechnical studies, traffic analysis, noise and air quality monitoring, and flora, fauna and marine ecology studies.

This next stage of work is expected to be completed in mid-2018 and will include a reference design; confirmed final project costings; funding strategy including tolling options and private sector involvement; and construction timeline including start and completion dates.

Site investigations

Site investigations will be carried out to help inform the design for the proposed tunnels.

Although a great deal is already known about underground conditions around Sydney, a more detailed assessment is needed to confirm existing data and to obtain further information about geological features, such as rock fault lines.

The tests will be carried out over a broad study area. Their location does not indicate a project alignment.

Where possible, investigations will be carried out in open space such as parks or on roads.

Test work will include geotechnical drilling on both dry land and in Sydney Harbour and Middle Harbour.

Geotechnical testing involves drilling a small diameter hole (about the size of an orange) to extract a rock core sample used for scientific testing and analysis.

Other tests will include

- Non-invasive marine ecology surveys and sonar investigations to determine precise water and sediment depths for the harbour crossings
- Terrestrial ecology surveys – non-destructive sampling and research into land based flora and fauna
- Contamination testing – to identify possible contamination from previous pollution on land and under water
- Air quality monitoring – to assess possible project impacts and benefits to air quality
- Traffic counts – to measure current traffic flows

Equipment used may include a truck-mounted or self-propelled drilling rig, support equipment, hand tools and other items.

Temporary work sites with safety fencing will be established to ensure community safety.

Drilling work at each site will take about a week, and will only occur between 7am and 5pm Monday to Friday and between 7am and 12 noon on Saturdays.

There will be no test drilling on Sundays or public holidays.

When the work is complete, drill holes on dry land will be capped and the test site restored to its previous condition.

There may be some noise associated with some of the testing work.

Roads and Maritime will notify local residents. We will work to minimise any disturbance to the local community and operate in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner.



Geotechnical drilling rig.

Western Harbour Tunnel

- Western Harbour Tunnel will connect WestConnex at Rozelle with the Warringah Freeway via a new tunnel beneath Sydney Harbour.
- This new cross-harbour bypass of the CBD will take pressure off the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Harbour Tunnel.
- The project will provide essential capacity to connect the North Shore and Northern Beaches with the Sydney CBD and beyond.

Beaches Link Tunnel

- Beaches Link Tunnel will connect the Warringah Freeway with the Burnt Bridge Creek Deviation at Balgowlah. The Wakehurst Parkway will be duplicated to Warringah Road.
- The tunnel will bypass 19 sets of traffic lights in 5 kilometres between The Spit and Falcon Street.
- Beaches Link will significantly reduce travel times for Northern Beaches bus commuters by up to 40 per cent.
- Beaches Link offers opportunities for seamless interchange with both Sydney Metro and Sydney Trains at North Sydney.

Warringah Freeway

- The Warringah Freeway is one of the most complex roads in Australia.
- Changes to the Warringah Freeway will make the road safer. Local traffic will be separated more efficiently from freeway users, leading to more reliable journeys.
- The Warringah Freeway will include connectivity for both the Western Harbour Tunnel and the Beaches Link Tunnel.

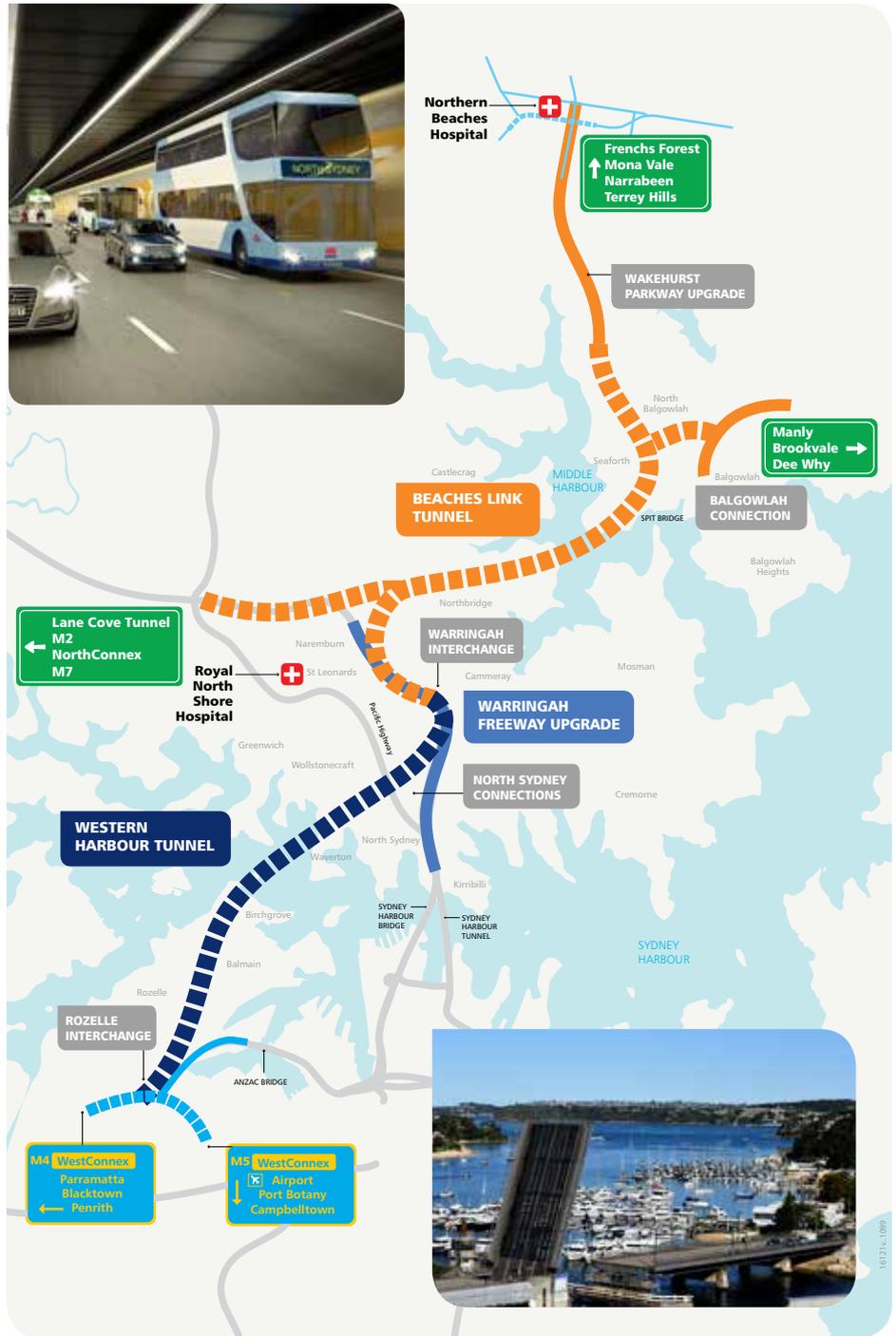
Project Outline

Every year, congestion costs the economy \$5 billion and this is forecast to increase to \$8 billion a year by 2020 if nothing is done. This congestion busting project will deliver time savings of:

- Brookvale to CBD of up to 40 minutes
- Dee Why to Airport of up to 45 minutes
- Manly to Macquarie Park of up to 35 minutes
- Manly to Parramatta of up to 45 minutes
- Seaforth to North Sydney of up to 35 minutes

The Sydney Harbour Bridge is Australia's busiest road, carrying 165,000 vehicles every weekday. In 2015, there were almost 4,000 accidents and breakdowns on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. A major bridge incident can delay traffic for over three hours and cause backlogs to the Lane Cove Tunnel and the Anzac Bridge.

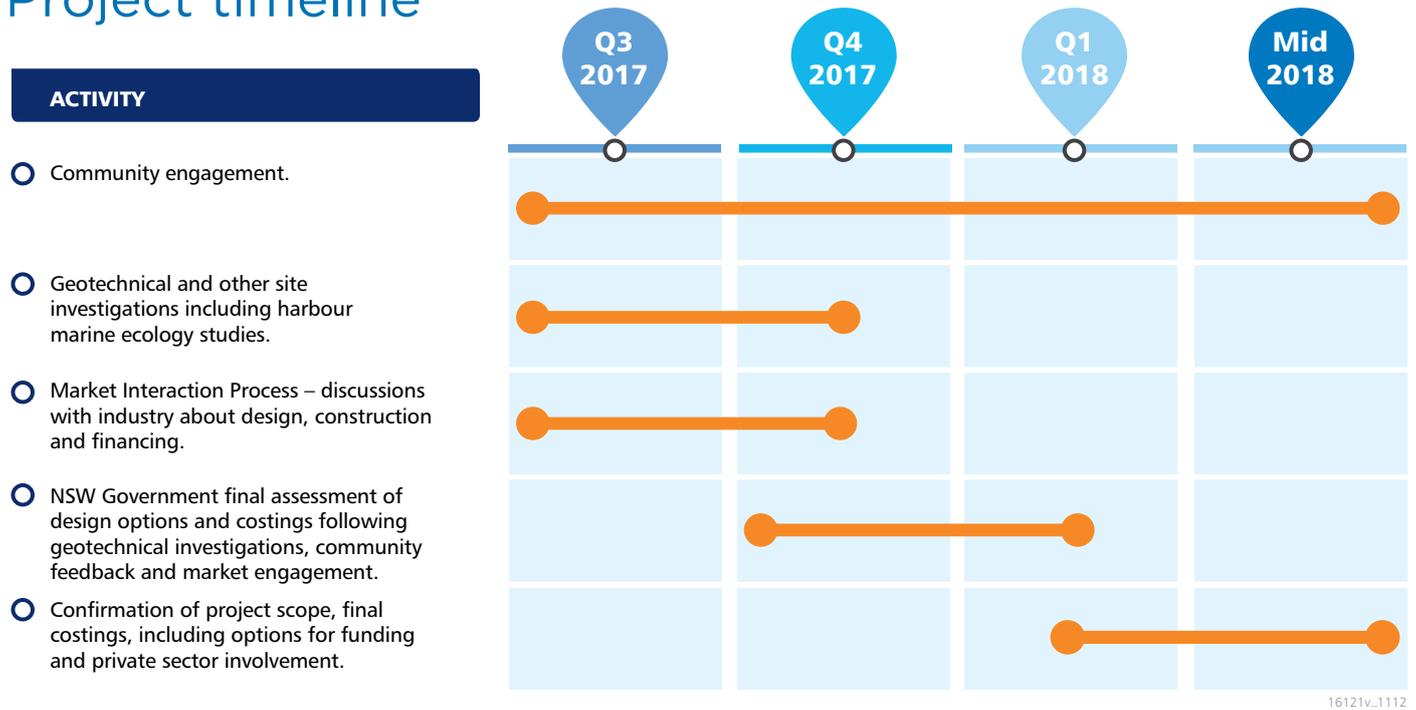
The Spit Bridge is the only opening bridge on an arterial road in Sydney. There are long road queues whenever the bridge opens for maritime traffic. Travel times on Military Road around The Spit and Mosman in the morning peak can be as slow as 12 km/h.



Project objectives

- Improve public transport for the Northern Beaches
- Future-proof Sydney's transport to meet population and growth challenges
- "Step change" for public transport for the Northern Beaches and Mosman
- Deliver a new crossing of Sydney Harbour to make Sydney's busiest transport corridor shock-proof
- Cut congestion across northern Sydney and the Sydney CBD
- Work in tandem with local communities
- Better access to jobs, education and community services for northern Sydney
- East-West, North-South connectivity
- Reduce rat-running on local community roads

Project timeline



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Community feedback

Community feedback has been a key part of the work currently underway.

More than 2,000 people attended our 16 Community Feedback Sessions at Mosman, McMahons Point, Chatswood, Balmain, Brookvale, Northbridge, North Sydney and Seaforth.

We are looking forward to running more Community Feedback Sessions as the project continues.

To find out more about the project, or to have your say, you can contact the project team direct by phone, email, post or via our interactive map on our web page (see details below).

You can also visit us at one of our pop up displays at local shopping centres where you can meet members of the project team to ask questions and provide your feedback.

Our pop up displays will continue until late July. All feedback being received is helping inform the decision making process as the project evolves.

For more information

- www.rms.nsw.gov.au/whtbl
- 1800 789 297
- motorwaydevelopment@rms.nsw.gov.au
- Customer feedback
Roads and Maritime Services
Locked Bag 928, North Sydney NSW 2059

This document contains important information about transport projects in your area. If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call the project team on **1800 789 297**. The interpreter will then help you with translation.

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