



Sydney Clearways Strategy

Roads and Maritime Services | April 2018

In December 2013, the NSW Government announced the Sydney Clearways Strategy as one of its key initiatives to reduce congestion on Sydney's roads. The NSW Government has committed \$121 million to implementing the strategy and installing new and extended clearways on Sydney's road network.

What is a clearway?

A clearway is a section of road where stopping and parking is not allowed during the times shown on the clearway sign.

Clearways are installed on key arterial roads where traffic is often heavy and congested. They help keep vehicles moving by making all lanes available to road users. The only exceptions are the stopping of buses and taxis dropping off or picking up passengers as well as emergency vehicles.

Vehicles parked in a clearway during the clearway hours risk being fined and the vehicle can be towed.

Key benefits

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.

Over 370km of new and extended weekday and weekend clearways have already been installed across Sydney, since December 2013.

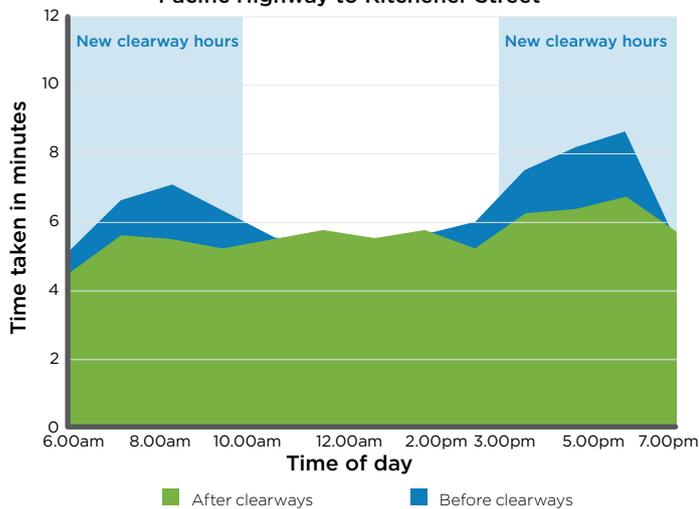


**Easing
congestion**

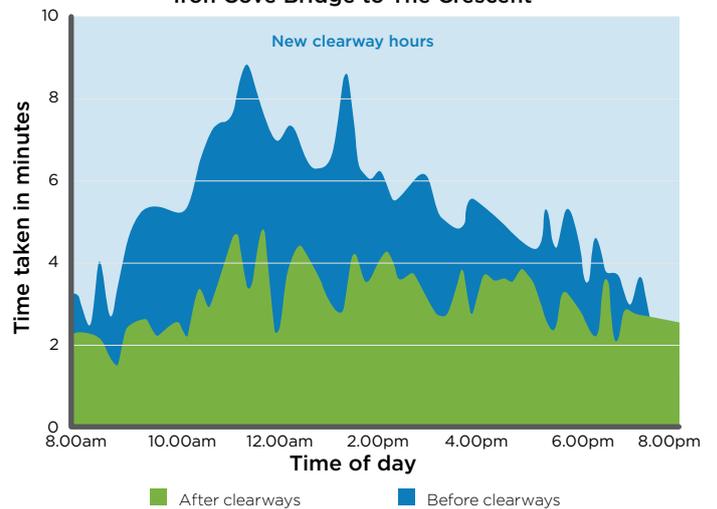


Kerbside parking contributing to congestion

Mona Vale Road on Weekdays Pacific Highway to Kitchener Street



Victoria Road on Sunday Iron Cove Bridge to The Crescent



Travel time comparison

Weekday travel times have been reduced by up to 46% through St Ives, which is a travel time saving of up to one minute for eastbound vehicles and two minutes for westbound vehicles.

Reduced by up to **46%**

Reduced by up to **40%**

Weekend travel times have been reduced by up to 40% on Victoria Road with travel time savings of up to 3 minutes for both eastbound and westbound vehicles.

Following the introduction of the new clearways, there was also a reduction in rear end crashes on Victoria Road.

How do clearways reduce congestion?

Clearways help reduce congestion where the road is close to capacity and parking disrupts the flow of traffic.

When vehicles are parked in the kerbside lane, fewer lanes are available to traffic and road users are also forced to merge from the kerbside lane which can create significant delays and queues.

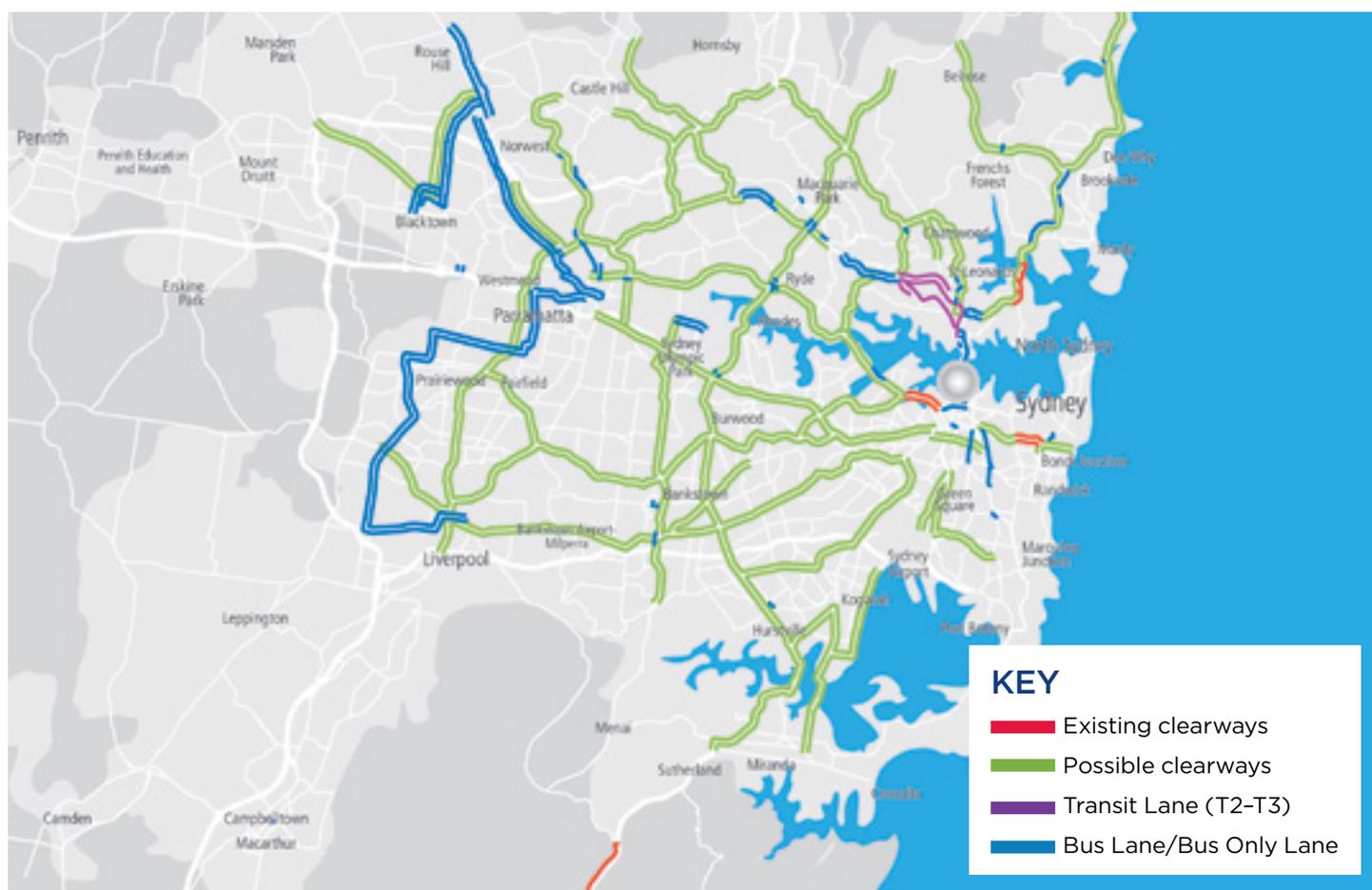
By removing the parking, an additional lane is available for road users which helps traffic flow and manage congestion.

Removal of parked vehicles from the kerbside lane also let more vehicles pass through each traffic light cycle. This should improve the efficiency of intersections and improve travel time and reliability for all road users, including buses.

Clearways also allow us to tow vehicles that are stopped illegally or broken down.

This ensures all lanes are available to traffic when they are needed most.





Weekend clearways for investigation

Clearway hours

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).

Routes for further investigation

The Sydney Clearways 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 as possible clearways, based on a 2013 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 areas are now being considered:

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



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.

Alternate business parking

When business parking is removed as part of new and extended clearways, Roads and Maritime Services aim to find alternate business parking nearby, taking into account the quantity and usage of parking being removed. Roads and Maritime Services consult on the alternate business parking proposals to seek local knowledge in identifying other potential locations or options on how to further manage business customer parking.

Delivery strategy

Roads and Maritime Services is continuing to investigate roads as identified in the Sydney Clearways Strategy that would benefit from new and extended clearways, taking into account the traffic and parking analysis, the range of road users' needs, as well as those of local businesses and communities along the corridor.

As part of this process, Roads and Maritime Services engage with local businesses and communities on clearway proposals, to explain the traffic analysis and better understand the needs of community and road users.

Nominate a clearway

If there is a road that you travel along, that is congested and you think would be improved with changes to the existing clearway or the addition of a new clearway, send an email to clearways@rms.nsw.gov.au with the details.

Your nomination, together with traffic data, will help us improve the reliability of roads and reduce delays in Sydney.



Clearways sign



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Contact us

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



1300 706 232



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