



Transport for NSW

Berowra Waters ferry upgrade

Project Update
May 2020



Vehicle ferry at Berowra Waters

The Berowra Waters ferry delivers an essential service to the local community and visitors. The ferry provides safe passage over Berowra Creek to over 23,000 vehicles and almost 4000 pedestrians each month.

Transport for NSW will upgrade the ferry ramps at Berowra Waters to ensure a safe, reliable ferry service. This will improve the lifespan of the ferry service for another 10 years, with ongoing maintenance.

Work on the upgrade will start on **Monday 1 June 2020**. This work will take six weeks and will require the ferry to temporarily close.

While the ferry will be closed, Bay Road and Berowra Waters Road will remain open to all road users.

Community consultation

Last year, we asked the community for feedback on our proposal to upgrade the ferry ramps.

Nearly 300 people representing local residents, road users, Hornsby Shire Council, businesses and community groups provided 128 submissions via an online survey, emails, phone calls, letters and in person at two community information sessions.

Key matters the community raised included:

- traffic and transport along Berowra Waters Road, Bay Road and Galston Road
- pedestrian and cyclist access to the ferry and safe travel routes
- timing and duration of the proposed closure
- whether there would be adequate signage of the work and the proposed closure
- safety
- impact on local businesses.

We have listened to your feedback and further considered our proposal. We have responded to the feedback in the Berowra Waters ferry upgrade submission report which is available on our website at rms.work/berowraferry.

Thank you to everyone for considering our proposal and for providing feedback on the Berowra Waters ferry ramp upgrade.

What's happening

Following our consultation with the community, and further detailed planning, we are now ready to start this work. We will upgrade the ferry ramps at Berowra Waters between **Monday 1 June** and **Monday 13 July**. The ferry will be closed during this time and we sincerely appreciate the patience and understanding of the community while we carry out this important work.

In this upgrade we will:

- upgrade the eastern and western ferry ramps at Berowra Waters – the new ramps will be built over the existing structures
- install underwater barriers around the new ramps to reduce wear and tear from tides and sediment
- resurface the roads approaching the new ferry ramps.

Our work will involve:

- establishing two site compounds, one on each side of the creek
- building temporary dams around each of the ramps, known as cofferdams, to pump out the water so we have a dry work environment to carry out the upgrade
- preparing the existing ramps for the upgrade
- making concrete panels that will go over the existing ramps. These will be made offsite to minimise the impact on the community
- placing and securing the precast concrete panels over the existing ramps.

Work timing

In our consultation, we proposed two potential timeframes for the work.

The options were:

- an earlier option – between Wednesday 8 April and Wednesday 20 May 2020
- a later option – between Monday 18 May and Monday 29 June 2020.

Of the 128 submissions received, 48 submissions chose the earlier options, 60 chose the later option and 20 did not select a preferred date. Local businesses also preferred the later option. Monthly ferry usage data also indicates the ferry is less busy in the later option.

Our preference has been to carry out this work in line with the community's preference for the later option. Unfortunately the start of the work will be slightly later than originally outlined. However, indicative ferry usage numbers at this time are still low, some of the work will occur during school holidays and we still anticipate the number of people moving on the road network will be lower than normal due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Detour for road users

While the ferry is closed the suggested detour for motorists is via Galston Gorge. There won't be any planned maintenance along the detour during the ferry closure. However, we would carry out any urgent maintenance work needed.

For road users travelling between Berrilee and Berowra, the detour will add about 19 kilometres to your trip. Road users travelling south on the Pacific Highway to Berowra Waters or Berrilee will need to travel through Asquith, a 16 kilometre detour.

We appreciate this is a significant disruption for road users in the area and we apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused while we carry out this very important work. We would encourage road users to plan ahead, allow extra travel time and avoid the area if possible during the closure.

Pedestrian and cyclist access across Berowra Creek

During the consultation, members of the community requested a replacement ferry be available while we do this work.

We have listened to this feedback and while it is not possible to keep a vehicle ferry operating during the work, we will provide a water taxi service for pedestrians, to enable key access from one side to the other.

This water taxi service will be free, and will run:

- between 6am and 10am and between 3pm and 7pm on weekdays
- between 8am and 6pm on Saturdays
- between 8am and 4pm on Sundays and public holidays.

Depending on passenger usage and feedback, we may adjust these hours slightly to suit community needs. If we need to make any changes, we'll put signs on both the eastern and western public wharves.

The water taxi can accommodate cyclists and their bicycles. However, it will be limited in size and there is a need to maintain appropriate social distancing on board. The water taxi will only be able to take one or two bicycles at a time. Pedestrian access to cross Berowra Creek will be prioritised. To avoid long wait times, we would encourage cyclists, particularly larger groups, to not include a crossing at Berowra Creek as part of their cycling routes during the ferry closure. Thank you for your understanding.

If you have particular special needs or circumstances in relation to the ferry crossing during the closure, we would like to work with you on an appropriate solution to help you maintain connectivity across the creek during this time. Please contact us on **1800 861 855** if you would like to discuss your circumstances further.

Our work schedule

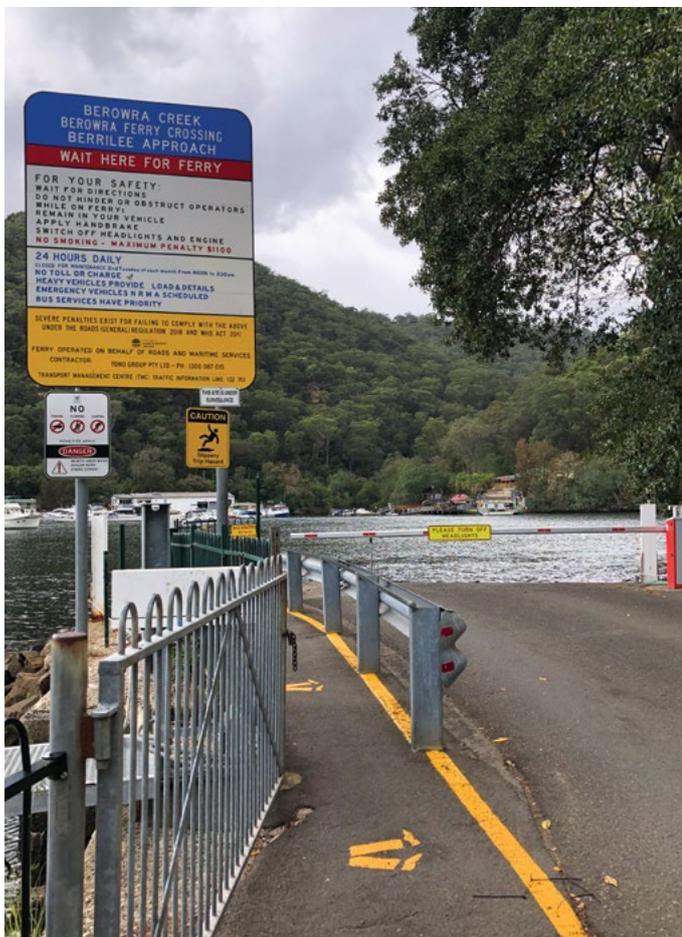
We will be on site for **35 day shifts** between **Monday 1 June and Monday 13 July**, weather permitting. We will not work on public holidays.

Our work hours will be between **9am and 5pm** from **Monday to Friday** and between **8am and 1pm** on **Saturday**.

How will the work affect you?

We have designed the project to minimise the impact to the community. We will do as much work offsite as possible, for example making the new ramps, to help speed up the process and reduce the impact on the local community.

Our work on site may be noisy at times but we will do everything we can to minimise its impact. If you experience any disturbance from the work, please do not hesitate to contact us.



West bank approach to Berowra Waters ferry

Traffic changes

There will be temporary traffic changes during our work hours to ensure the work zone is safe.

Please keep to speed limits and follow signs and traffic controllers' directions. For the latest traffic updates, you can call **132 701**, visit livetraffic.com or download the **Live Traffic NSW App**.

Thank you for your understanding while we complete this important work.

Join our mailing list

Keep up to date on the progress of the Berowra Waters ferry upgrade by joining our mailing list.

Email berowra@rms.nsw.gov.au or sign up to the project website rms.work/berowraferry.

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Berowra Waters ferry upgrade please contact our project team on

 **1800 861 855**

 **berowra@rms.nsw.gov.au**



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