

New clearways on Centennial Avenue and Burns Bay Road corridor from Epping Road to Victoria Road

Frequently asked questions – February 2018

The NSW Government is funding this project as part of its \$121 million Clearways Program, which aims to reduce congestion and delays on Sydney's roads.

In December 2017, Roads and Maritime Services announced new and extended clearway hours on the Centennial Avenue and Burns Bay Road corridor between Epping Road and Victoria Road to reduce congestion for motorists and improve journey reliability.

Following the announcement, the community raised a number of issues and Roads and Maritime agreed to respond collectively to the most frequently asked questions and post these on the Roads and Maritime website.

A separate consultation report for the Pinch Point intersection improvement project will address issues related to the intersections along this corridor. This report will be made available as part of the consultation process.

What is the Clearways Strategy?

The NSW Government announced the Sydney Clearways Strategy in December 2013 as one of its key initiatives to reduce congestion on Sydney's major roads.

The 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, based on an 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, with the following two areas now being considered:

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

Over 300km of new and extended weekday and weekend clearways have already been installed across Sydney, since December 2013.

For more information please refer to the **Sydney Clearways Strategy** and the **Roads and Maritime Clearways web page** for the latest information on current projects.

What are the key benefits of new and extended clearways?

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.

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.

Why are Centennial Avenue and Burns Bay Road in the Strategy?

The Centennial Avenue and Burns Bay Road corridor is a key state road (number 166) connecting the two state roads of Epping Road and Victoria Road, which was gazetted in 1976. This arterial road is managed and maintained by Roads and Maritime.

This corridor was identified in the 2013 Clearways Strategy based on traffic volumes and travel times. Further investigations have now been undertaken to confirm that:

- it forms part of a suburban bus route in 'Sydney's Bus Future',
- is a tertiary freight route in the NSW Freight and Ports Strategy, and
- alternate business parking close to local businesses can be found.

Therefore, along with an assessment of the volumes and travel time, it meets the requirements for new weekend and weekday clearways.

How were the clearway hours determined?

Burns Bay Road and Centennial Avenue were identified in the clearways strategy for weekday peak clearways and weekend clearways in both directions.

This corridor is a four lane road. The investigations of 2017 traffic signal data found that during the weekday, around 46,000 vehicles travel on Burns Bay Road and around 25,000 vehicles travel on Centennial Avenue.

The investigation showed that Burns Bay Road would benefit from all day weekday clearways, including the inter-peak period, based on hourly traffic volumes and times.

However, due to lower current traffic volumes and to minimise the impact on residents, only the weekday AM and PM peaks will be implemented on the Centennial Avenue section which will provide road capacity when needed most.

Investigations of 2017 traffic signal data found that around 39,000 vehicles travel on Burns Bay Road and 23,000 vehicles travel on Centennial Avenue on weekends.

Weekend clearways, based on the traffic volumes and travel time data, will apply along the length of the corridor between Epping Road and Victoria Road, for a shorter day from 9am to 6pm.

Please refer to the Traffic Data Summary on the project page for the hourly volume and travel time graphs, which were completed as a part of the independent study conducted on this corridor in August 2016.

The independently conducted study of traffic data that was collected in 2016 was validated by Roads and

Maritime in 2017 as being current and appropriate based on the traffic signal vehicle counts and Google data.

What are the new clearway hours?

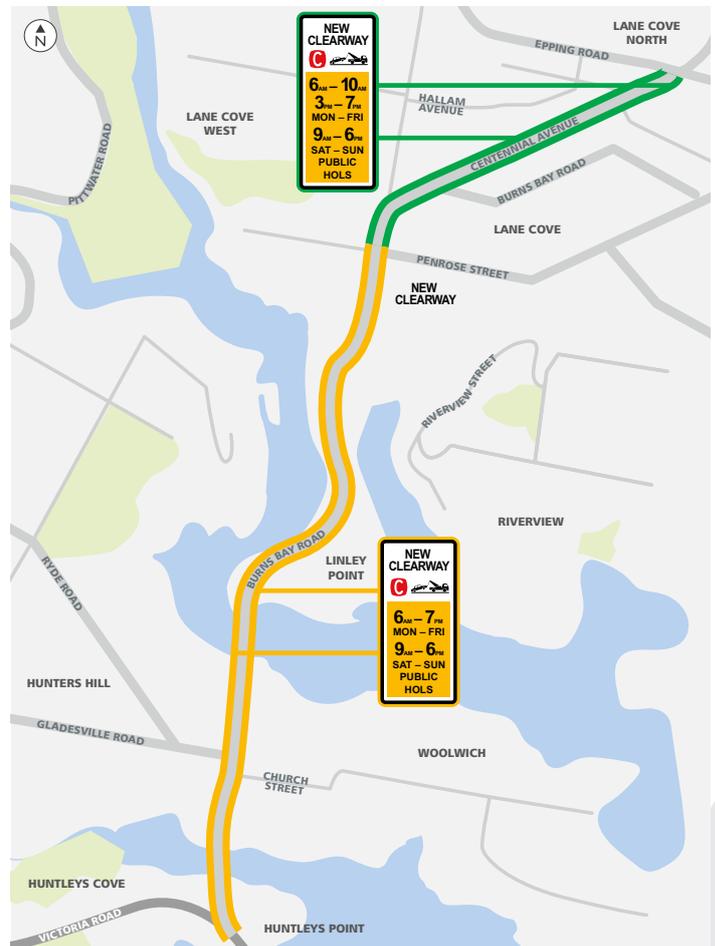


Figure 1 - New clearway hours on Centennial Avenue and Burns Bay Road corridor

Roads and Maritime will be introducing new clearway hours on Centennial Avenue and Burns Bay Road, as shown in Figure 1.

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)

There are no changes to existing parking restrictions outside the new clearway hours on the Burns Bay Road and Centennial Avenue corridor.

What happens when parking is removed from the main road?

The primary purpose of a state road such as Centennial Avenue and Burns Bay Road is to efficiently and safely move people and goods across Sydney.

The corridor passes through residential areas. Any parking currently permitted on the state road is not specifically allocated to businesses or residents.

We understand that the new clearway hours will change parking conditions in front of residential properties, which will cause some inconvenience for residents and visitors.

However, parked vehicles can impact on the primary purpose of the road and Roads and Maritime can change parking restrictions, across the state road network, to ensure these roads are fulfilling their primary purpose.

During the investigation period we looked at properties along the state road to understand the changes that residents would need to make. We observed that properties along Centennial Avenue and Burns Bay Road have some off-street parking.

An independent parking assessment in August 2016 found that on the surveyed weekdays and weekend, there were up to 40 vehicles on weekdays and 36 vehicles on weekends parked outside residential properties on Centennial Avenue and up to 4 vehicles on weekdays and 8 vehicles on weekends on Burns Bay Road.

Following the installation of the new clearway hours, these vehicles would need to park on private properties or in local streets.

How will visitors, tradespeople and deliveries be able to park to access my property?

During clearway hours, tradespeople, delivery trucks and visitors are encouraged to park within residential properties wherever possible.

If parking is not available on your property, tradespeople, delivery trucks and visitors will need to park in a local side street and walk to your property. This is similar to all other state roads where clearways and 'No Stopping' restrictions are in place.

The independent parking assessment made observations that the additional vehicles that park on the local streets after the introduction of the clearways can be accommodated within existing, vacant spaces. However, some of these vehicles are likely to be parked within residential properties.

Deliveries that require vehicles to stop on Burns Bay Road or Centennial Avenue may be arranged outside the clearway hours.

How will I access Charlish Park?

During clearway hours, visitors who drive to the park will need to find parking in either Fig Tree Street or Gentle Street to access Charlish Park. Outside clearway hours, such as from 10am to 3pm on weekdays, parking will also be available on Centennial Avenue.

Could the intersections at Penrose Street and Barwon Road/ Fig Tree Street be improved?

There are no current projects at the intersections at Penrose Street and Barwon Road/Fig Tree Street.

Could an additional pedestrian crossing on Centennial Avenue between Epping Road and Barwon Road/Fig Tree Street be considered?

There are no current plans to provide an additional pedestrian crossing across Centennial Avenue. A review of the Lane Cove Council LGA Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan does not identify any need for a crossing at this location, at this time.

Irrespective of whether or not clearways are in place, pedestrians need to cross in a safe manner. While it might add time to your journey, Roads and Maritime strongly encourages pedestrians to use the nearest traffic lights, to cross Centennial Avenue.

How will I get out of my driveway safely?

Removal of parked cars on the kerbside lane during the clearway hours would improve sight lines for vehicles exiting driveways and vehicles travelling along the kerbside lane and assist in reducing the risk of crashes.

Allowing use of all lanes on Centennial Avenue and Burns Bay Road should improve the efficiency through existing intersections, allowing more vehicles to cross during each traffic signal cycle. This often results in “platooning” where groups of vehicles travel closer together in bunches or platoons (i.e. groups of vehicles) at similar speeds with larger gaps between each platoon.

Larger gaps between platoons of vehicles allow more time to safely exit driveways or side streets, when compared with a steady stream of individual vehicles as observed when intersections and roads are not operating efficiently.

Do clearways impact property value?

We understand that the new and extended clearway hours will change parking conditions in front of residential properties, which may cause some inconvenience for residents and visitors. However, the primary purpose of a state road such as the Centennial Avenue and Burns Bay Road corridor is to move people and goods efficiently across Sydney.

Any parking currently permitted on the state road is not specifically allocated to residents or properties. Parking impacts on the primary function of the road and Roads and Maritime change parking restrictions across the state road network to ensure they are meeting their primary purpose.

The introduction of new and extended clearways does not change the land use, land size or development capacity of your property. As such, we do not expect that changes to parking on the state road would impact on private property values

Can the clearways be done after the intersection improvements are completed, to see if they are required?

As mentioned in the introduction, the Centennial Avenue and Burns Bay Road corridor was identified in the Sydney Clearways Strategy published in December 2013, based on the current traffic volumes and travel times.

No reduction in traffic volumes are expected to occur with the introduction of the Pinch Point project.

The clearways are expected to be installed in March 2018.

Concerns about speeding

Clearways will improve the distribution of traffic along the road as all lanes of traffic will be available to road users. Removing parked cars from the kerbside lane will remove the need for road users to merge with moving traffic in the adjacent lane and will also reduce the risk of vehicles being involved in side swipe crashes. This provides a more stable flow of traffic resulting in a safer environment for road users and reduces crashes.

The crash history for the corridor in the five-year period between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2016, shows that there were 116 reported crashes, with nearly half of these related to manoeuvring:

- 43 rear-end crashes (37.1%)
- 11 lane change (9.5%)
- 2 hit parked vehicle (1.7%)

Introduction of clearways is expected to reduce the number of these types of crashes.

NSW Police is responsible for monitoring the road network to ensure users comply with all road rules and regulations. We encourage members of the public to report speeding, dangerous driving or unsafe behaviour on the road network to the police.

Roads and Maritime enforces speed limits along Centennial Avenue through a fixed digital speed camera. A review of the speeding offences for the period from 1 January 2011 to 31 October 2017 shows that 99.98% of people are doing the right thing by observing the posted speed limit at this location.

An initiative of the NSW Speed Camera Strategy allows NSW residents to nominate locations for speed camera enforcement by visiting saferroadsnsw.com.au. The information you provide, together with crash data and other road safety information will help to prioritise future locations for speed cameras in NSW.

Contact us

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



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