

# Across the Bridge

## Sydney Harbour Bridge Community Update

September 2017



Sydney Harbour Bridge from Observatory Hill at dawn.

The NSW Government is investing in projects to modernise and improve access to the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The Sydney Harbour Bridge connects our city from north to south and back again and provides an important link to thousands of commuters and sightseers every day.

In addition to the 160,000 vehicles and more than 200 trains that cross the bridge every day, nearly 2,000 cyclists use the cycleway on the bridge to make their way in and out of the city.

There is cycle traffic on the bridge cycleway 24 hours a day, but most of them in the morning and afternoon peaks with riders commuting to work in the city.

Roads and Maritime Services is committed to ensuring that the bridge caters for the changing needs of all users. In addition to the various tolling upgrades and maintenance work, we are delivering a number of initiatives to continue to improve safety and access to the bridge for cyclists. You can read more about some of the improvements in this edition of Across the Bridge.

## Northern painting program

Roads and Maritime is continuing work on the steel underneath the walkway and cycleway of the northern spans of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The work involves removing the existing paint, repairing the steel structure and applying new lead-free paint, further protecting our iconic structure. A similar program has already been completed on the southern end of the bridge.

The work is carried out in completely enclosed containment structures that clip on to either side of the bridge. Safety zones beneath the containment structures are established and fenced off.

The work is completed in sections and it takes about 30 work days to complete each section.

Work is progressing well and the containment structures are moving north towards Milsons Point Station. Painting in the northern section will continue until 2019.

Visit [rms.nsw.gov.au/sydneyharbourbridge](https://rms.nsw.gov.au/sydneyharbourbridge) for more information on our bridge repainting program.

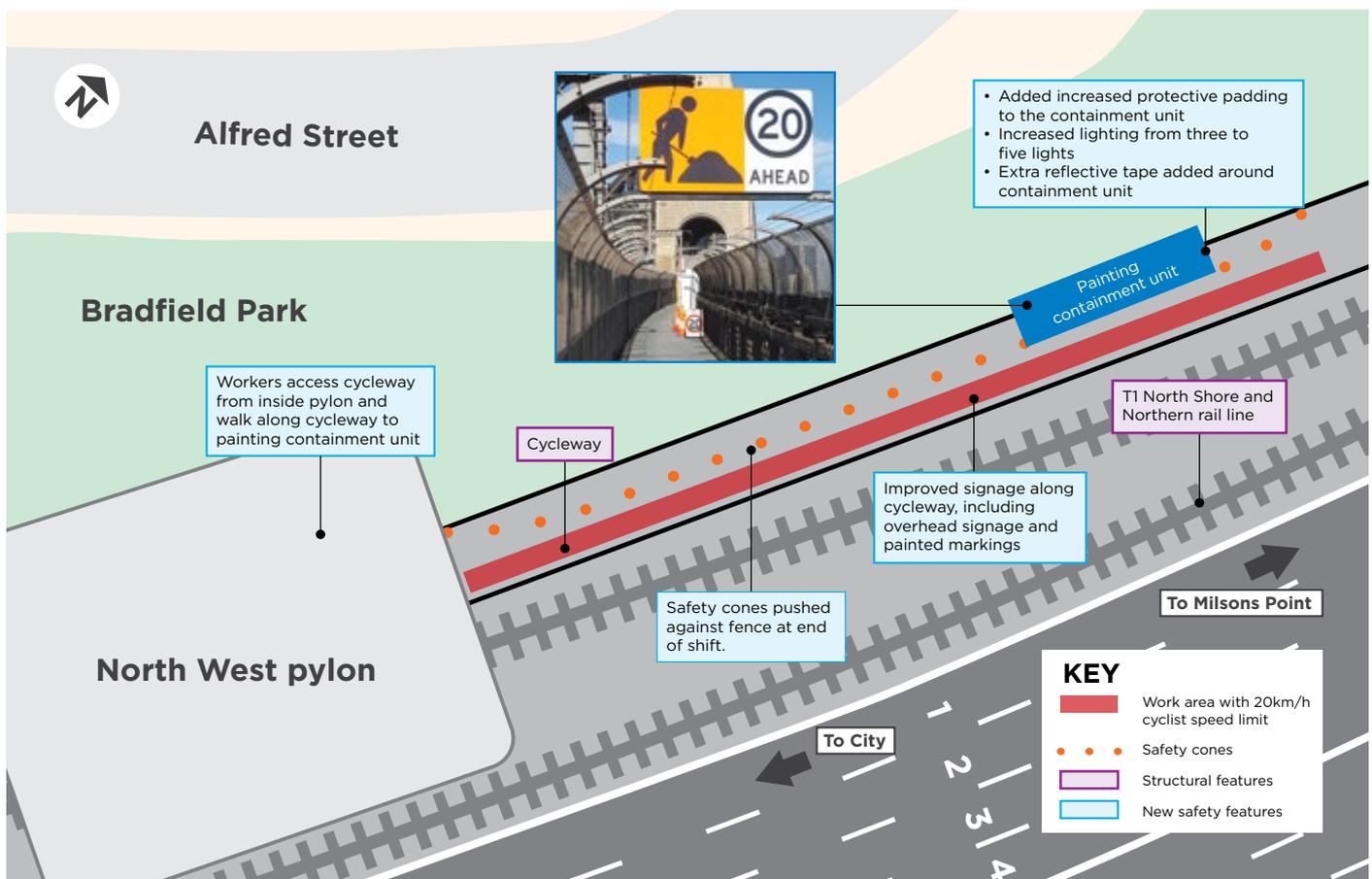
## Working with the community

To ensure the safety of workers and cyclists, the Sydney Harbour Bridge cycleway is narrowed to ensure safe clearance around the containment structures used to repaint the bridge. Following feedback from the community and stakeholders, and after meeting with Bicycle NSW, we engaged a traffic and transport consultant to carry out a safety assessment of the area to ensure we are delivering the best possible safe conditions for our workers and cycleway users.

Following the assessment we have carried out a number of actions to improve conditions in the area around the containment unit, including:

- limiting the length of the narrowed area, with safety cones moved to the fence at the end of every shift
- installing reflective tape and more padding on hard edges of the containment unit to improve visibility and safety
- increasing lighting in the area
- removing signage from the ground and installing overhead signage
- including a speed limit of 20 km/h along narrowed cycleway.

Drop-in information sessions were held on the northern end of the cycleway in August where project staff provided information and answered questions on the new safety measures and plans for access improvements. Visit [rms.nsw.gov.au/sydneyharbourbridge](https://rms.nsw.gov.au/sydneyharbourbridge) for more information.



Safety improvements on the Sydney Harbour Bridge cycleway following a traffic and transport assessment.

## Riding the bridge

Have you ever wanted to ride your bike down the middle of the Sydney Harbour Bridge? Here's your chance with registrations now open for the annual Bicycle NSW Spring Cycle on 15 October 2017.

Roads and Maritime is a proud supporter of the Spring Cycle, which sees thousands of riders take up the unique opportunity to avoid the traffic and ride their bike across our iconic bridge.

There are a range of rides you can choose to suit your fitness and experience, from the leisurely 10km City Ride to the ultimate 105km Challenge Ride. Children can tag along in fitted bike seats and trailers and children aged 8-16 can ride with an adult free of charge.

Due to safety priorities, age restrictions are applicable for every ride distance and children under the age of eight cannot ride independently over any event distance.

Visit [springcycle.com.au](http://springcycle.com.au) for more information or to register.



Riders participate in the 2016 Spring Cycle.

## Just keep rolling – cycleway access improvement

The Sydney Harbour Bridge cycleway is the most heavily used cycle link in the Sydney metropolitan region, with more than 2,000 cyclist trips on average using the bridge every weekday and the numbers are growing!

There's been a 66% increase in cyclist volumes since 2008 and traffic is predicted to continue growing. Roads and Maritime is developing a proposal to improve access to the cycleway by providing step-free access for cyclists at the northern end of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and a dedicated cycleway connection from the bridge to the Kent Street cycleway at the southern end.

The northern end of the cycleway will form an important link between the existing Sydney Harbour Bridge cycleway and the future North Shore Link Cycleway, identified by the NSW Government as one of five priority bicycle routes in *Sydney's Cycling Future* report. The options report for the connection will be displayed for public consultation in late 2017.

On the southern side, the proposed dedicated cycleway connection between Kent Street cycleway and the bridge aligns with the NSW Government's vision for an integrated cycle network within the city centre as shown in the *Sydney City Centre Access Strategy*. The environmental assessment report is planned for public consultation in late 2017.

Visit [rms.nsw.gov.au/sydneyharbourbridge](http://rms.nsw.gov.au/sydneyharbourbridge) for more information on the Sydney Harbour Bridge access program.



Artist's impression of a proposed Sydney Harbour Bridge northern cycle ramp option.



Artist's impression of the proposed southern cycleway connection.

## Sydney Harbour Bridge Southern Toll Plaza Precinct upgrade

The Southern Toll Plaza Precinct upgrade has progressed to Stage 2, with new site compounds and lane alignments to allow for the next phase of work.

There is now a central work site as well as some work space towards the eastern side near the Grosvenor Street off ramp. We are also carrying out work around the intersection of York and Grosvenor Streets, to

complement the changes to lane alignments in the toll plaza area.

Go online for more information on the Southern Toll Plaza Precinct upgrade, with animated driver scenarios, staging maps, weekly schedules and project updates available to view.

Visit [rms.nsw.gov.au/sydneyharbourbridge](https://rms.nsw.gov.au/sydneyharbourbridge)

## Toll booths come down

Watch a timelapse video of the last toll booths coming down at [rms.nsw.gov.au/sydneyharbourbridge](https://rms.nsw.gov.au/sydneyharbourbridge).



## Learn more

Staging plans and animated driver scenarios to demonstrate the path to take over the bridge during construction are available at [rms.nsw.gov.au/sydneyharbourbridge](https://rms.nsw.gov.au/sydneyharbourbridge).



## Northern Toll Plaza Precinct Upgrade

In addition to our work upgrading the Southern Toll Plaza Precinct, Roads and Maritime is proposing to remove the old toll booths from the northern approach to the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The proposal includes removing the redundant toll booths on the Cahill Expressway and is part of a package of work to improve and adapt the northern precinct to the needs of a modern city.

Investigations have commenced to inform the environmental assessment and concept design for the proposal.

We will continue to inform and consult with the community and stakeholders as this proposal develops.



Toll booths were mobile in the past. This picture from 1976 shows toll booths being pushed aside using a forklift following the morning peak.

## Managing our sustainability

Roads and Maritime has an embedded sustainability focus in our organisation to minimise our environmental footprint and deliver positive economic outcomes for the people of NSW.

Our approach to sustainability has been applied in a number of projects on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, including the installation of energy efficient lighting on the bridge's cycleway and in our bridge repainting program.

We recently secured a grant from the Office of Environment and Heritage's Small Sites and Heritage Energy Efficiency Scheme to replace the existing metal halide street light lamps on the Sydney Harbour Bridge with more efficient light-emitting-diode (LED) technology.

The one-for-one lamp replacement has been completed and will deliver energy savings for approach lighting of around 30 per cent and greenhouse gas emissions reductions of approximately 2.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Other benefits of the upgrade include:

reducing energy consumption without compromising the safety of road users

reducing maintenance requirements which will reduce costs and the safety risks to maintenance workers

using local products that complement the iconic nature of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Visit [rms.nsw.gov.au/about/environment/sustainability](https://rms.nsw.gov.au/about/environment/sustainability) to learn more about our sustainability focus.



Workers remove one of the existing metal halide street lamps.



One of the new LED lamps installed on the bridge.



Final connection of one of the new lamps.

*Images supplied by Office of Environment & Heritage.*

## We're on Facebook

Roads and Maritime is on Facebook @NSWRoads with our page providing a mix of helpful traffic information, major project updates, safety tips and opportunities to have your say on what we are working on.

Visit Facebook and like our page to see what we are up to across the NSW roads network.



Some of our recent Facebook posts.



Live Traffic NSW provides enhanced traffic information – giving you up-to-the-minute news of incidents and conditions that affect your journey, straight from the Transport Management Centre.

Visit [www.livetraffic.com](http://www.livetraffic.com), @livetrafficnsw on Facebook, follow LiveTrafficSyd on Twitter or download the app to plan your journey.

## Contact

If you have any questions or would like to be included on our mailing list for Sydney Harbour Bridge projects, please contact our Sydney Harbour Bridge Projects team on:

 1800 581 595

 [rms.nsw.gov.au/shb](http://rms.nsw.gov.au/shb)

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