Western Harbour Tunnel

Temporary construction site: Sydney Harbour cofferdams

Western Harbour Tunnel is a major transport infrastructure project that makes it easier, faster and safer to get around Sydney.

As Sydney continues to grow, our transport challenge also increases and congestion impacts our economy.

While the NSW Government actively manages Sydney’s daily traffic demands and major new public transport initiatives are underway, it’s clear that even more must be done.

Western Harbour Tunnel will provide a new motorway tunnel connection across Sydney Harbour between Rozelle and the Warringah Freeway near North Sydney.

It will form a new western bypass of the Sydney CBD, providing an alternative to the heavily congested Sydney Harbour Bridge, Western Distributor and Anzac Bridge.

It will change the way people move around Sydney.

The Warringah Freeway will be upgraded for the new connections and to make important improvements to this busy road corridor.

It will be easier to navigate and there will be a continuous southbound bus lane and new active transport links.

Thanks to this major project, people will spend less time in traffic and have more time for their families and their daily lives.

You can contact us at any time to learn more about the project or to provide your feedback.

Information on the proposed reference design is now available at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/whtbl

Temporary offshore cofferdams are required off Yurulbin Point and Balls Head for construction of the Western Harbour Tunnel crossing of Sydney Harbour.

Cofferdams are temporary steel structures drained of water, which are used to build a transition structure connecting the tunnels under dry land with the tunnels under the harbour.

Cofferdams will be placed offshore to avoid direct impact to foreshore areas and will be accessed via water to keep trucks off local roads.

The Birchgrove Ferry Wharf and the ships MV Cape Don and Baragoola will be temporary relocated during construction.

There will be no direct impact to the Balls Head Coal Loader facility.

The NSW Government has now released the proposed project reference design and there will be extensive community and stakeholder engagement over the coming months.

We now want to hear what you think about the proposed reference design.

Your feedback will help us further refine the design before we seek planning approval.

There will be further extensive community engagement once the Environmental Impact Statement is on public display.
Sydney Harbour temporary cofferdams

Temporary cofferdams are proposed offshore near Balls Head and Yurulbin Point.

Key activities

- Temporary cofferdams for the construction of concrete transition structures connecting the tunnels under dry land with the tunnels under the harbour.
- Cofferdams are temporary steel structures approximately 50 metres x 25 metres (a bit larger than an Olympic swimming pool) that are drained of water.
- These facilities are proposed for the construction of concrete ‘adaptors’ (transition structures) connecting the road header (land) tunnels and immersed tube (under-sea) tunnel.

Reducing our impact

- One will be located around 20 metres offshore from Yurulbin Park, Birchgrove and the other will be located around 20 metres offshore from Balls Head, Waverton.
- Locating cofferdams offshore avoids direct impacts to private property and foreshore areas.
- Cofferdams will be supported by water-based transport – keeping trucks off local streets.
- There will be no permanent facilities at these locations, apart from the tunnels below.
- No direct impact to Balls Head Coal Loader facility.
- The Birchgrove Ferry Wharf will need to be temporarily relocated during construction. We are working with Transport for NSW to identify the most suitable temporary location.
- The ships MV Cape Don and Baragoola will need to be temporarily relocated during construction. It is proposed these vessels be moved only slightly south to retain access to the Coal Loader precinct. We will work with the two respective preservation societies to minimise the impact.
- We are working with key stakeholders, including Port Authority of NSW and Transport for NSW to coordinate activities with commercial shipping, ferries, recreational boating and other harbour users.

You can contact us at any time to learn more about the project or to provide your feedback.

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Customer feedback
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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 931 189. The interpreter will then help you with translation.