

May 2017

Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link – Geotechnical investigations in Middle Harbour from week of 15 May 2017

The NSW Government is funding preferred route investigations including geotechnical testing for the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link.

Roads and Maritime Services carries out geotechnical testing to gather information about underground rock and soil conditions across a broad area. Data from this work will be used to inform the engineering design, final costings and a construction timeline.

As identified by our technical advisors, test drilling is required to be carried out in the Middle Harbour in the channel between Northbridge and Seaforth. There may be some noise associated with some drilling works in the Harbour. Drilling works which may result in noise impacts are scheduled to start the week starting 15 May 2017 for around three months (weather and site conditions permitting).

Geotechnical investigations at these sites will be carried out using two jack-up barges.

The work will normally take place from **7am and 6pm** between **Monday to Friday** and **8am and 6pm** between **Saturday and Sunday**.

Due to shipping movements in the Harbour it is also likely that some out of hours work will take place. Residents who may be affected by noise associated with out of hours work will be notified in advance.

How will the work affect you?

Geotechnical testing in the Harbour involves drilling small diameter holes in the Harbour bed (about the size of an orange) to extract rock samples used for scientific testing and analysis. The work will take place from a geotechnical rig mounted on a jack-up barge located in the Harbour (see image below).



All jack-up barges associated with the work will be:

- fitted with Automatic Identification System (AIS)
- fitted with flashing yellow lights on the extremities
- fitted with signs warning of the 25 metre exclusion zones
- fitted with down lights illuminating the jack up legs
- provided with a 25 metre exclusion zone marked by four yellow lit buoys.

We will minimise disturbance to the local community and operate in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner.

The location of these tests does not indicate a possible alignment and the work is designed to gather data about rock strata and conditions deep below the Harbour bed.

Contact

If you have any questions please contact our project team on 1800 789 297 during office hours (8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday) or motorwaydevelopment@rms.nsw.gov.au. Thank you for your patience during this important work.

Work area

Middle Harbour in channel between Northbridge (shown on left) and Seaforth (shown on right)



Translating and Interpreting Service

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone Burtons on 1800 631 531.

