Controlled trial blast - Reserve Street, Annandale

Due to a section of hard sandstone underneath Annandale, the M4-M5 Link Tunnels team is trialling a number of different tunnelling methodologies to complete this work safely and efficiently. The Project is exploring the viability of using controlled blasting as an excavation method. Controlled blasting is a common tunnel excavation method that has been safely used on other Sydney tunnel projects and may reduce the overall noise and vibration impacts when compared to other excavation methodologies.

What we’re doing

In order to assess the viability of controlled blasting as an effective excavation method in the area, the Project will undertake a one day trial of blasting.

The trial will consist of three small scale controlled blasts undertaken on Monday 27 July, 2020 between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm. There is likely to be a delay of an hour or more between each of the three blasts. A map provided overleaf shows the approximate location of the trial.

The trial blast is designed by industry experts so as to not exceed vibration levels that could cause damage to property or heritage items. Vibration monitoring will be undertaken at a number of locations to confirm that vibration levels are within allowable limits.

If the trial is successful, further detailed communication and engagement will be carried out with residents and business owners regarding the possibility for future controlled blasts.

How this affects you

It is expected that some residents close to the work area will experience some level of noise and vibration for a very short period of time (likely in the order of a fraction of a second) for each of the three short blasts however most residents in the area are unlikely to feel any impact.

The trial will be overseen and directed by a blasting and vibration expert that has been involved in numerous similar operations for the last two decades. All blasting activities will be monitored and are designed to be within the stringent vibration requirements set out in the project’s Environmental Protection Licence.
To understand the location of the M4-M5 Link Tunnels, or for further information regarding the controlled blasting process, please visit the interactive tunnelling tool at https://stage3a.anzgeo.com/ or refer to the fact sheet which is enclosed with this notification and available in the document library on the WestConnex website.

If you have an enquiry or complaint or would like to provide feedback about this update, please contact the M4-M5 Link Tunnels team on toll free 1800 660 248, email info@m4-m5linktunnels.com.au or write to PO Box 63, Mascot, NSW 1460.

**Approximate location of upcoming work**