

30 November 2017

Tunnelling progress update – Northcote Street construction site

In September 2016, the Northcote Street tunnelling site commenced construction of the temporary access tunnel, which now allows access for construction of the M4 East tunnels. Eight roadheaders are currently excavating the mainline tunnels as well as the Wattle Street and Parramatta Road entry and exit ramps, Parramatta Road Ventilation Facility (PRVF) Vent tunnels and the M4-M5 Link tunnel stubs.

In accordance with the conditions set out by the project's Environmental Protection Licence, tunnelling activities including excavation will occur **24 hours per day, seven days per week**.

Due to the increased number of roadheaders tunnelling from the site, excavated rock and material will be removed **24 hours per day, seven days per week**.

Tunnelling activities near your property

Tunnelling and related construction activities will continue near your property in December and January 2017. Excavation will occur in several stages. Roadheaders will first excavate the upper two-thirds of the tunnel and rock will be excavated intermittently in the weeks following the roadheader to remove the lower third of the tunnel profile (activity known as benching). For further information about tunnelling methodology, refer to the WestConnex website.

In December 2017 several breakthroughs are planned, which signify key milestones for tunnelling work. A map showing the approximate location of the several stages of tunnelling activities, as well as the breakthrough points, is provided overleaf.

What to expect during tunnelling

Each individual's experience of tunnelling may vary due to a range of local conditions and variables. Vibration and noise levels experienced depend on ground conditions, building types, existing background noise levels and the quality of your property (older buildings were built to different standards than newer buildings). It also depends on how far away you are from the tunnel. In some instances, you may experience the following:

- **Ground borne noise** – this is created when vibration from tunnel excavation travels through the ground and causes a building's flat surface to vibrate, occasionally creating an audible 'rumbling' noise.
- **Vibration** – at times you may feel some vibration, however the predicted levels are **not high enough to cause damage to property**.

Once the tunnelling (roadheader and benching work) is complete, you are unlikely to hear or feel any vibration from vehicles using the motorway.

If you have an enquiry or complaint about this work, please contact toll free 1800 660 248 and ask to speak to a member of the M4 East team or email info@M4East.com.au.

Notification reference: N141V

ABOUT WESTCONNEX

WestConnex is part of a broader transport plan for Sydney which includes improved public transport, such as Sydney Metro and light rail, as well as better, more reliable motorway solutions. More than two-thirds of WestConnex will be built underground. Once complete, motorists will be able to avoid up to 52 sets of traffic lights and enjoy significant travel time savings.

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Location of tunnelling activity – Northcote Street construction site.





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Location of tunnelling activity – Northcote Street construction site (cont.).



Tunnelling (roadheader): Dec / Jan	Yellow bar
Tunnelling (roadheader): Completed (benching to follow)	Light green bar
Tunnelling (benching): Completed	Dark green bar
Construction site	Grey bar
Parramatta Road exit ramp	A
Parramatta Road entry ramp	B
Wattle Street entry ramp	C
Tunnel breakthrough points (December)	Red star

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