

# Ryde to Pymble Pipeline Upgrade

## August 2026 project update | REF Addendum determined

This essential project will improve the resilience of Sydney's drinking water network, help meet future demand across Sydney's North Shore and strengthen long-term water security for customers.

The Review of Environmental Factors (REF) Addendum has now been determined and is available on the project webpage. This means the additional environmental impacts have been assessed and the project can proceed with measures in place to reduce and manage those impacts.

We know the community is concerned about potential impacts on trees, bushland and local character. This update explains what has changed, how feedback has influenced the project and what happens next.

### What changed

The original Review of Environmental Factors, or REF, was determined in September 2025. As design progressed, Sydney Water identified impacts on additional vegetation that had not been covered by the original assessment.

We prepared an REF Addendum to assess these impacts. This included flora and fauna assessments, and measures that will avoid, minimise and mitigate environmental impacts during construction.

Sydney Water has determined that, with these measures in place, the project is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact and can proceed.

Some impacts cannot be avoided but community feedback, further investigations and design changes have helped us reduce impacts in several locations.

### What we heard

#### **Protect trees, habitat and neighbourhood character**

The strongest community concern was the potential removal of mature trees and the impact this could have on habitat, biodiversity and neighbourhood character. Community members asked us to explore all reasonable options to retain trees and reduce vegetation loss.

We completed further environmental investigations and refined the construction approach to reduce impacts where practicable.

We'll continue to explore opportunities to retain trees. Where impacts cannot be avoided, we will work with local councils and landowners to restore and revegetate affected areas after construction.

Specialist ecologists assessed the additional impacts and concluded that the project is

unlikely to substantially impact the long-term viability, connectivity, or recovery of the Turpentine-Ironbark Forest of the Sydney Basin Bioregion or the Grey-headed Flying-fox.

### How we'll restore affected areas

- Offset native remnant trees and Threatened Ecological Communities at a ratio of 3:1.
- Offset hollow-bearing trees and other native vegetation at a ratio of 2:1.
- Offset all other trees (exotic) at a ratio of 1:1.
- We'll implement habitat replacement measures where required.
- We'll rehabilitate disturbed areas.

### Clearly explain project decisions

Community members asked for clearer information about the environmental assessment process, design decisions and the reasons for choosing particular alignments and construction methods.

We provided additional technical and environmental information, published questions and answers and extended the feedback period to give community and stakeholders more time to review the information and respond.

### Reduce construction disruption

Community members raised concerns about traffic, parking, property access, pedestrian safety, noise and other disruption during construction.

We understand construction can be disruptive for nearby residents and businesses. Depending on location, there may be noise, vibration, and dust. This will be closely monitored and managed. Controls will vary by location and may include installing temporary noise barriers, quieter equipment, water carts and sprinklers to reduce dust, covering materials and keeping work areas clean and well maintained.

We're also working with Councils and other stakeholders on traffic and construction plans to maintain safety and reduce disruption.

### Tangible outcomes

Community feedback, further investigations and design refinement have contributed to several changes.

- **47 trees** approved for removal in the original REF will now be retained.
- Around **900 metres of pipeline** has been removed from the project scope.
- The proposed temporary construction compounds in the Ku-ring-gai local government area have been reduced from **five to two**.
- The microtunnel retrieval compound at Kissing Point Road has been reduced in size to retain more trees.
- Construction methods have been refined in several locations to reduce impacts.
- Root mapping and tree-specific investigations will continue during construction to identify further opportunities to retain trees.

## Assessed vegetation impacts

In our initial information about the REF Addendum, we presented a conservative, worst-case estimate of potential tree impacts while investigations and design refinement were still underway. We intended this to provide transparency. However, we recognise this contributed to community concern and made it difficult to distinguish between potential impacts under investigation and the impacts likely to occur following further assessment and design development.

The figures below are the assessed vegetation impacts across both the original REF and REF Addendum following refinements.

| Trees potentially requiring removal |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| • City of Ryde                      | 105 |
| • Ku-ring-gai                       | 54  |
| Trees potentially requiring pruning |     |
| • City of Ryde                      | 173 |
| • Ku-ring-gai                       | 128 |

These are not a target for removal or a final count. Before removing any tree, we will complete a tree-impact validation process to ensure all feasible avoidance and reduction measures have been considered.

## What happens next

We are continuing to establish temporary construction compounds along the pipeline route while final investigations continue. This includes confirming ground conditions, locating underground services and preparing work areas.

Excavation of the launch shaft at Vimiera Road, Marsfield is continuing. Later in 2026, the microtunnel boring machine will begin installing the pipeline beneath the M2 Motorway, Lane Cove River and Lane Cove National Park.

We will continue to refine construction and traffic plans as work progresses. We will notify nearby residents and businesses before starting work that may affect them.

## Our commitment to your community

Thank you to everyone who attended a community information session, made a submission or contacted the project team. Your feedback and local knowledge have helped us improve our information, investigate concerns and reduce impacts.

During the REF Addendum process, we've continued to refine the project design and construction approach, balancing local environmental and community impacts with the need to provide reliable water services for Sydney's growing population.

We know construction can be disruptive. We're committed to minimising disruption and continue looking for opportunities to reduce or avoid impacts wherever practicable as construction progresses. Where impacts cannot be avoided, we will rehabilitate affected areas and carry out replacement planting.

We'll continue to keep the community informed, listen to feedback and provide updates as work progresses.

## Contact us

Visit our project webpage for the latest updates and work notifications. You can also subscribe to receive project updates by email.

**Call:** 1800 664 935

**Email:** rydepymblepipeline@sydneywater.com.au

**Website:** [sydneywater.com.au/ryde-to-pymble-pipeline](https://sydneywater.com.au/ryde-to-pymble-pipeline)

### Interpreter Service 13 14 50

Arabic • Chinese • Greek • Italian • Korean • Vietnamese • Hindi • Punjabi

إذا كنت تحتاج إلى مترجم، يرجى الاتصال بالرقم أعلاه.

如果您需要傳譯員的協助，請致電以上的號碼。

Αν χρειάζεστε διερμηνέα, τηλεφωνήστε στον παραπάνω αριθμό.

Se vi serve un interprete, telefonate al numero indicato sopra.

통역사가 필요하시면 위의 번호로 전화하십시오.

Nếu quý vị cần thông dịch viên, hãy gọi đến số trên đây.

यदि आपको दुभाषिए की सहायता की ज़रूरत है, तो कृपया ऊपर दिए गए नम्बर पर फोन करें।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੋਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਮਦਦ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉੱਤੇ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।