

16 February 2026

Thornleigh Pipeline Duplication – Project update

Sydney Water is undertaking the largest expansion of any water utility in Australia to support the NSW Government’s housing-supply strategy and meet population growth. Investing now ensures we serve our communities and enable thriving, sustainable cities – while also keeping costs to customers as low as possible.



Tunnel boring Machine Jane Starkey breaks through at Thornleigh-Wahroonga Pumping Station

One of the ways we are doing this is by duplicating the 1.4 km drinking water pipeline between Thornleigh Reservoir (on Quarter Sessions Road) and the Thornleigh-Wahroonga Water Pumping Station (on Dale Close). This will increase the resilience of the local water supply and cater for the growing population.

The pipeline will start at Thornleigh Reservoir in the south-east corner of the site and extend around 1.2 km to the south side of Zig-Zag Creek at Thornleigh-Wahroonga Water Pumping Station.

What’s happened so far

Our Tunnel Boring Machine Jane Starkey broke through at the Thornleigh-Wahroonga Pumping Station early in January. This completes a major project milestone with the pipe now in place

Work between now and May

We have started dismantling the tunnelling equipment, and now need to fit out the tunnel. This involves welding the pipe joints inside the tunnel and grouting around the pipe to ensure it is properly supported. As part of this work, concrete trucks will be entering and exiting the Thornleigh Reservoir site. This work will need to take place **24 hours a day, 7 days a week** once we start pouring the concrete. If this work is not done continuously, the concrete can set too early, risking the quality and safety of the work and not securely supporting the pipe.

At the surface, a generator will provide power to the tunnel and a fan for tunnel ventilation.

Our team will also continue construction of the chambers, which house the connection between the Thornleigh Reservoir and the new pipeline. This work will occur during our standard working hours of **7am to 6pm Monday to Friday** and **8am to 1pm Saturdays**. This work may be noisy at times, as we demolish some existing structures to make way for the new connection.

To minimise impacts we will:

- add additional noise blankets around the site
- continue to monitor noise and vibration
- use quieter equipment where possible (for example, a smaller, quieter crane)
- turn off equipment when not in use
- minimise truck and spoil movements where possible, use water carts and cover loads and stockpiles to suppress dust.

What happens next?

Once we have completed the new connections between the Thornleigh Reservoir and the new pipeline, we need to connect the new pipes. This work will require some work outside our standard working hours during the cooler months of the year, when the demand on our water network is lower. We will provide notice of this work once we confirm the schedule.

We anticipate completing the project in 2027.

We would like to thank the local Westleigh and Thornleigh community for their understanding and continued support for the project.

Where can I get more information?

We will continue to keep you informed as work progresses. If you have any questions, please contact the project team on 1800 560 682 or thornleighiom@sydneywater.com.au. You can also visit our website at www.sydneywater.com.au/thornleighiom