New Willoughby Submain - Tunnelling beneath your area

Most people above the alignment are not expected to hear or feel the tunnelling.

While the tunnelling approaches and passes below homes and businesses, noise and vibration above is expected to be low and temporary.

Improving the reliability of local wastewater services

Sydney Water is planning a new underground wastewater pipeline between ANZAC Park, Cammeray and Chelmsford Avenue, Naremburn. The project will improve the reliability of wastewater services across the Lower North Shore and help support the area's future wastewater needs.

Most of the pipeline will be built deep underground using a technique called microtunnelling, which will help reduce disruption at surface level.

What this means for you

- ☑ The tunnel will be built deep underground.
- ☑ Most people above the tunnel are not expected to hear or feel the tunnelling.
- ☑ Any noise or vibration is expected to be temporary while the tunnel boring machine passes beneath the area.
- ☑ We will notify nearby residents and businesses before tunnelling reaches their location.

Why tunnel?

The new pipeline needs to be built deep underground so wastewater can continue to flow naturally through the network.

Building the pipeline by tunnelling means we can avoid digging a long trench along streets and public spaces. This helps reduce impacts on residents, businesses, roads, traffic and parks.

How deep is the tunnel?

The tunnel will generally be between 6 and 35 metres below ground. Where the tunnel passes beneath homes, it will be at least 23 metres below ground.

The depth helps minimise impacts at the surface.

Where is tunnelling proposed?

The indicative map below shows the new wastewater pipeline, connections to the existing system, and key work sites.



Proposed tunnel route including connections and work sites. Details may change as planning and design progress.

How the tunnel will be built

Most of the new wastewater pipeline will be built deep underground using tunnel boring machines. These machines excavate the tunnel and install the pipeline as they move forward. They will be launched from access shafts at ANZAC Park, Naremburn Park and Francis Street, with engineers monitoring their progress throughout the work.

The tunnel will vary in depth along its route, depending on local ground conditions and engineering requirements.

What you can expect

Before tunnelling

- **Advance notification:** we will notify residents and businesses at least 7 days before tunnelling passes beneath their area, so they know when to expect the work.
- **Property condition surveys:** we will assess properties along the alignment and offer property condition surveys where there is potential for the works to affect a property. The survey records the condition of the property before construction starts, including photographs of internal and external areas. This provides a reference point throughout construction should any concerns arise.

During tunnelling

- **Temporary noise and vibration:** you may notice some underground noise or feel vibration as the microtunnel boring machine passes nearby. This will last between one and six days, depending on your location.
- **Working hours:** most tunnelling will take place during our standard working hours (7am-6pm from Monday to Friday and 8am-1pm on Saturdays). Tunnelling between Anzac Park and Waters Road will take place 24-hours a day from 6am Monday to 6pm on Saturdays.

Monitoring

- **Noise and vibration:** we will monitor noise and vibration both below and above ground throughout tunnelling to ensure impacts on the community is minimised.

Work sites

Work sites have different activities and local impacts, including traffic, parking, access, noise and use of public space. If you are near a proposed work site, please read the separate work site fact sheet on the project website.

Keeping you informed

We will provide targeted updates before tunnelling reaches your area and share broader project information through the website and community updates.

Contact us

Visit the project website for updates, maps, fact sheets and engagement opportunities.

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