

## 8.1. MM01: Western Harbour Tunnel Modification Report - submission

Last Wednesday, 19 July 2023, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) commenced public exhibition of a Modification Report in respect of the Western Harbour Tunnel project.

The community consultation exhibition period ends at 11:59pm on Tuesday 15 August 2023. TfNSW summarise the modification to the existing consent of the Western Harbour Tunnel project as follows:

*The Modification is seeking to amend the approved Western Harbour Tunnel project which was granted planning approval in January 2021.*

*The Modification is proposing changes to how we will cross Sydney Harbour between Birchgrove and Waverton by changing the construction methodology from the approved Immersed Tube Tunnel (IMT) method to Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs).*

*The proposed change in the Modification Report will reduce construction impacts on the community by:*

- *no dredging of Sydney Harbour*
- *reducing the overall number of construction support sites from five to three*
- *no construction supports sites required at Yurulbin Point, Berrys Bay, White Bay North or Victoria Road*
- *cofferdams no longer required at Birchgrove and Balls head in Sydney Harbour*
- *no impacts to Birchgrove Ferry Wharf and ferry services*
- *reduced impacts to ferries and boats on Sydney Harbour*
- *using the latest technology in tunnelling (TBM)*

*The Modification is also proposing a new construction support site at Emu Plains along with some changes at existing support sites at the Rozelle Rail Yards, Glebe Island and Ridge Street, North Sydney.*

<https://caportal.com.au/rms/wht/wht-stage-2-eis-modification-map>

The Modification Report details a number of improved environmental outcomes such as no dredging of the Harbour and removal of a coffer dams at Waverton.

Nevertheless, the changed construction methodology will have significant impacts on the North Sydney local government area including changes to construction sites at Ridge Street and Cammeray.

The Modification Report also provides an opportunity for Council to strongly advocate on behalf of our community for further amendments and conditions of consent to ameliorate the impacts of the project including, but not limited to:

- reconsideration of the proposed route to respond to the changed construction methodology;

- the return of 1.5ha of Cammeray Park allocated for operational sheds for the Beaches Link and WHT – particularly, the provision of open space over the shed sites similar to that provided at Rozelle;
- changes to the project to address impacts on Berry Street and the CBD;
- changes to local traffic and roads at Ernest and Falcon Streets; and
- embedding active and sustainable transport within the corridor.

**I therefore recommend:**

**1. THAT** Council prepare a detailed submission on the Modification Report to address the impacts on the North Sydney local government area and advocate for further amendments and/or conditions of consent to ameliorate the impacts of the project on open space, local roads and the environment.

**COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER  
MAYOR**