

Notification – Hunter Street (Sydney CBD)

29 March 2023

Sydney Metro is Australia's biggest public transport project.

The NSW Government is delivering Sydney Metro West – a new underground metro railway which will double rail capacity between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD, with a target travel time of about 20 minutes between the two centres.

Sydney Metro has been granted planning approval to construct twin underground rail tunnels between Westmead and Hunter Street in the Sydney CBD for Sydney Metro West. John Holland CPB Contractors Ghella Joint Venture (JCG) has been awarded the contract to deliver 3.5 kilometres of twin metro rail tunnels between The Bays and Hunter Street and excavate the Pyrmont and Hunter Street metro stations.

There will be two work areas on Hunter Street in the CBD. Hunter Street East, located at the corner of Bligh Street and O'Connell Street and Hunter Street West, located on the corner of Hunter Street and George Street.

Start of tunnelling at Hunter Street

Tunnelling at the Hunter Street East site will start from **Thursday 13 April 2023** and begin with excavation of a temporary decline access tunnel using a roadheader tunnelling machine. The decline is an underground ramp which will be used by vehicles, staff and machinery to access the underground tunnels. A roadheader is a specially designed electric powered tunnelling machine that has a rotating head fitted with metal picks to break and excavate rock.

Tunnelling will be carried out from within the existing acoustic shed on Bligh Street (now the Hunter Street East site) and will involve excavation and tunnel support activities. Please see over the page for a location of our tunnelling.

Once the decline has been constructed, which is expected to take four months, tunnelling will continue into the underground station cavern and turnback tunnels. Deliveries and excavated material from Hunter Street East will utilise existing site driveways on O'Connell Street.

Work hours

Tunnelling work will be undertaken 24 hours per day, seven days a week from **Thursday 13 April** and will continue until mid-2025.

Equipment used

Equipment used for works include but is not limited to; roadheaders, rockbolt rig, shotcrete machine, excavator with rock breaker, concrete trucks, trucks, cranes, light vehicles and traffic control vehicles.

What to expect

The tunnel process involves three distinct stages which depending on the location and depth of the tunnel, may be audible to nearby residents and businesses. These stages include:

- Tunnel excavation – roadheader progressively removes ground material. Depending on the depth of tunnel, this activity can create a consistent low rumbling sound
- Rockbolting – steel rods are drilled into the roof of the tunnel for support. This activity creates a temporary drilling sound
- Shotcreting – concrete is sprayed onto the roof of the tunnel for additional support. This activity is generally inaudible on the surface.

Ground-borne noise and vibration is typically more noticeable at night when background noise levels are lower.

There will also be increased construction vehicle and truck movements in the CBD including along Hunter, O'Connell, Macquarie, Bent and Bridge streets.

Construction noise and dust will be managed on site by using the existing acoustic shed, covering loaded trucks and using street sweepers to keep roads clean.



Figure 1 Roadheader used in tunnelling

Contact us

Please contact Shay from the JCG community team on 1800 612 173 if you have any questions or would like to provide feedback about the work. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of work in your area. If you would prefer to receive updates by email, please send a request to MetroTunnelsJCGJV@transport.nsw.gov.au and we will add you to the distribution list.

Sydney Metro has launched Sydney Metro Connect – a new way to stay informed. You can download Sydney Metro Connect on the App Store or get it on Google Play.

Thank you for your understanding while we complete this essential work.

-  **1800 612 173** Community information line open 24 hours
-  **MetroTunnelsJCGJV@transport.nsw.gov.au**
-  Sydney Metro West, PO Box K659, Haymarket NSW 1240
-  If you need an interpreter, contact TIS National on **131 450** and ask them to call **1800 612 173**

Location of tunnelling in the CBD

