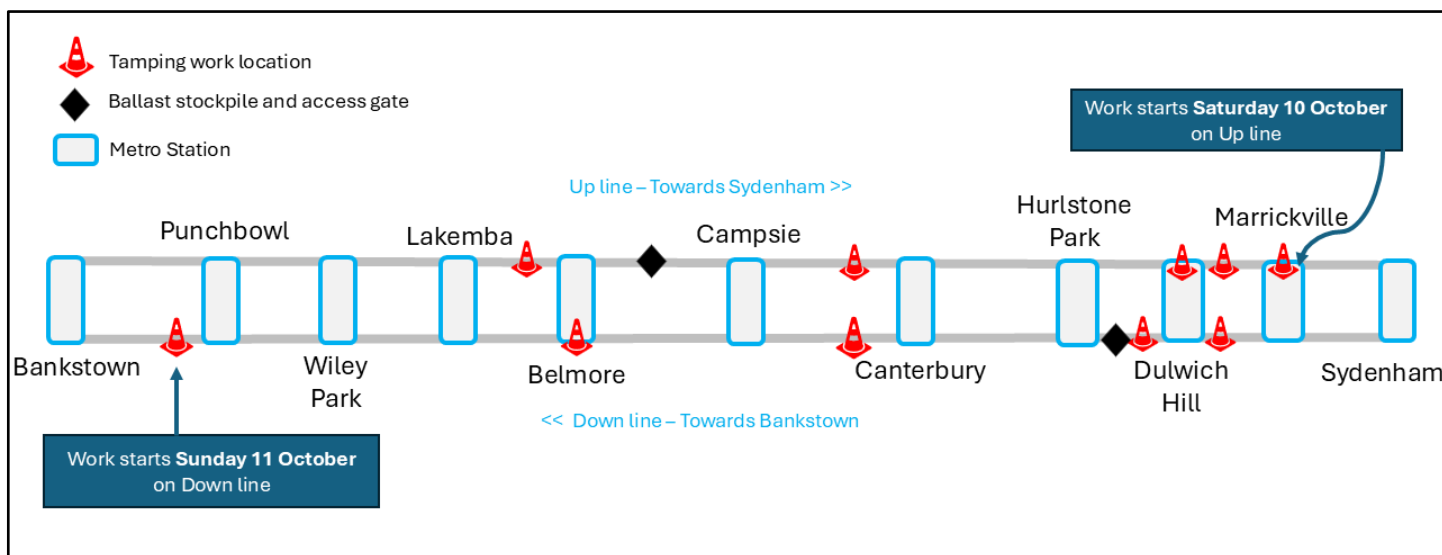


Fact Sheet – Rail tamping between Sydenham and Bankstown – 10 and 11 October 2026



The Southwest Metro corridor between Sydenham and Bankstown was recently handed over to operator Metro Trains Sydney to complete final testing and commissioning activities before passenger services begin later this year.

As part of this commissioning work, track maintenance activities including **rail tamping** will take place on **Saturday 10** and **Sunday 11 October 2026**.

What is rail tamping?

Rail tamping is a routine rail maintenance activity used to restore the correct alignment and level of the railway track. Over time, the ballast (the crushed rock) settles due to train movements and weather conditions. A specialised tamping machine lifts and aligns the track before compacting the ballast beneath the sleepers, helping to maintain a safe and reliable rail network.

Why is tamping required?

Tamping is needed to help prepare the Southwest line for metro services. It helps keep the track safe, reliable and comfortable for passengers. Tamping improves the track's alignment, reduces wear on trains and track equipment, and helps avoid speed restrictions.

When will the work take place?

Work will start at Marrickville Station from **7am** on **Saturday 10 October** and progress towards Bankstown Station. Crews will then move to the opposite track and continue back towards Dulwich Hill Station, finishing at **10pm** on **Sunday 11 October**, weather permitting.

The work will be carried out progressively on specific sections along the rail corridor. No individual location will have work for the entire weekend.

Will tamping take place across the alignment for the whole weekend?

No. Rail tamping will only take place in five specific sections on each track (refer to the map on the first page), not along the whole track between Sydenham and Bankstown.

Will tamping be noisy?

Yes, tamping can generate noticeable noise while work is underway. Noise is primarily produced by the tamping machine's engine and the vibrating equipment used to compact ballast beneath the sleepers.

Residents may hear rumbling, grinding, vibrating or mechanical sounds as the machine moves along.

The noise and vibration experienced will be temporary and apply in the area around the section being tamped.

How long will the noise last?

Tamping is a mobile maintenance activity, meaning the machine progressively moves as work is completed. Noise levels may vary throughout the shift and are generally temporary at any one location.

Tamping in each section will last between 1.5 hours and 4 hours, in addition to set up, checks and pack down before moving to the next section.

What other impacts might I notice?

You may also see workers, plant and equipment entering and exiting the corridor from rail access gates and stations. In addition, you may notice ballast being loaded and moved along the alignment from the designated stockpile locations **in the rail corridor** listed below:

- Ewart Street, Dulwich Hill
- Loftus Street, Belmore

Will I receive a respite offer for the noise impact?

No respite offers are being offered for this work as it is part of regular railway maintenance, similar to what occurs on other parts of the rail network.

Metro Trains Sydney works under environmental requirements that apply to rail operations, including maintenance activities. These requirements are different to those that apply to delivery contractors during the construction phase of the Southwest Metro project. The requirements applicable during construction, including respite offers such as vouchers, do not apply for rail operations and maintenance.

Will tamping be part of future maintenance of the rail corridor?

Yes. Tamping is a routine maintenance activity and will continue to be carried out to help keep the Southwest Metro line safe and reliable. Future tamping work will generally take place during planned possession weekends when passenger services are not operating.

For upcoming trackwork, visit <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/future-trackwork-calendar>

Contact us



24-hour Community Information Line **1800 171 386**



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