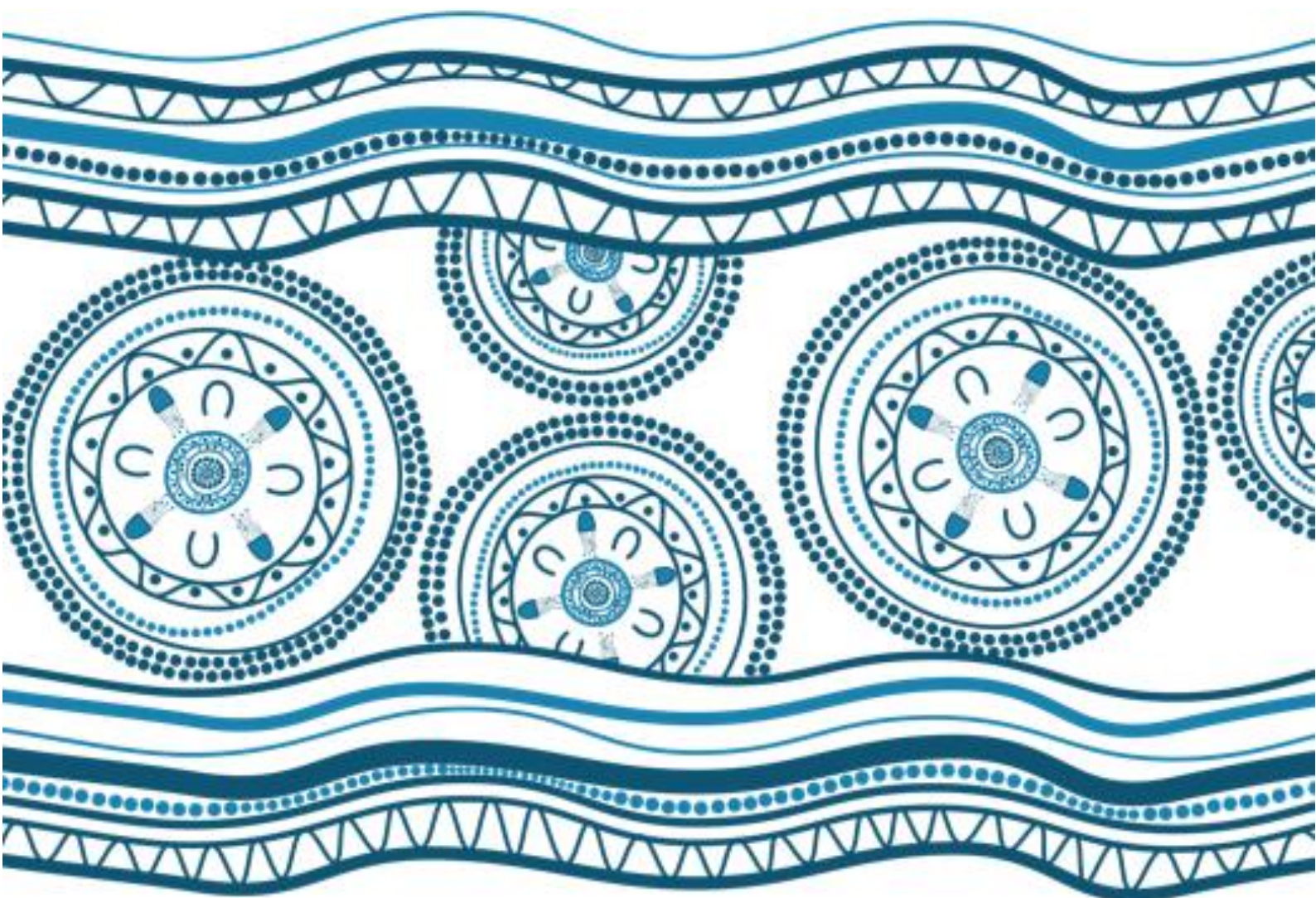


Chapter 1

Introduction



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1 Introduction

This chapter introduces the project, providing a brief outline of its need, scope, and location. It also outlines the structure of this environmental impact statement (EIS).

1.1 The proposed project

Transport for New South Wales (Transport for NSW) is seeking approval to reinstate the ferry wharves at La Perouse and Kurnell in Botany Bay (the project). This would allow for an alternative connection between La Perouse and Kurnell other than by road. The primary purpose of this infrastructure would be to enable the return of the public ferry service that operated between La Perouse and Kurnell intermittently for 75 years until the wharves were damaged in 1974 by a heavy storm. The wharves would also provide supplementary temporary mooring for non-ferry commercial vessels (such as whale watching vessels) and recreational boating.

This project is recognised as a priority under the Kamay Botany Bay National Park Plan of Management (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), 2020a) and associated master plan to deliver improved visitor amenity and access, provide new experiences and acknowledge the diversity of stories associated with place. The project also supports the Kamay 2020 Project, which commemorates 250 years since the encounter between Aboriginal Australians and the crew of the *HMB Endeavour*.

The reinstatement of the ferry wharves is considered transport infrastructure and is located on State land managed by Transport for NSW. The project is to be delivered by Transport for NSW, separate to the rest of the Kamay Botany Bay National Park Kurnell Master Plan which is to be delivered by National Parks and Wildlife Services.

Key features of the project include:

- Demolition of the existing viewing platform at Kurnell
- Construction of temporary ancillary works including access roads, compound areas, stockpiles, fencing and temporary building platforms (including a temporary causeway at Kurnell and temporary crane platform at La Perouse)
- Relocation of swing moorings at La Perouse
- Construction of two wharves on piles, one at La Perouse and one at Kurnell that would include:
 - A berth for passenger ferries (to cater for ferries between 15 metres to 40 metres in length)
 - A multi-user berth for commercial and recreational vessels (to cater for vessels between two metres and 20 metres long)
 - Sheltered waiting areas and associated furniture located on the wharves
 - Signage and lighting
- Landside paving and landscaping at the entrance to the wharves
- New footpaths connecting the entrance of the wharves to the existing footpaths
- Reconfiguration of existing car parking areas at La Perouse to increase the number of spaces, and associated footpath changes to accommodate these additional car parking spaces
- Bicycle racks near the La Perouse wharf
- Installation of utilities to service the wharves including power and water.

The total construction period is anticipated to take up to 13 months. The construction of the two wharves will occur at the same time with landside and waterside works occurring simultaneously.

The project would be funded by the Australian and NSW governments. Subject to approval, construction of the project is expected to commence in 2022.

The key features of the project are shown in Figure 1-2, Figure 1-3 and Figure 1-4. This EIS has been prepared based on the concept design. A detailed description of the project including the construction method is provided in Chapter 5 (Project description). If approved, the project would generally be carried out in line with these descriptions and any mitigation measures and prescribed conditions of approval.

1.2 Project location and environment

The project is located at La Perouse and Kurnell on either side of the ocean entrance to Botany Bay, stretching over Randwick City and Sutherland Shire local government areas (LGAs). Both sites are located in the Kamay Botany Bay National Park (the National Park), about 14 kilometres south of the Sydney central business district (CBD) (see Figure 1-1). Other major land uses around Botany Bay include the Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport, Port Botany and the suburb of Brighton-Le-Sands. The wharf at La Perouse is proposed to extend about 180 metres from the shore and the wharf at Kurnell is proposed to extend about 230 metres from the shore. Figure 1-2, Figure 1-3 and Figure 1-4 show the location of the project and key features.

La Perouse is a popular tourist destination that provides open spaces, beaches and rocky shores. It contains several historic sites including the Bare Island fortifications, Macquarie Watchtower, Cable Station and La Perouse Museum. La Perouse is popular with visitors for sight-seeing, swimming, diving, boating, angling and walking. There are also a number of restaurants located on the peninsula. The biophysical environment within the La Perouse construction boundary is largely cleared of vegetation and consists mostly of mown lawn and patchy modified heathland. Where the headland meets the shoreline, rocky outcrops are exposed at low tides. There are a number of public and private boat moorings in Frenchmans Bay.

At Kurnell, the National Park has heritage significance as the first meeting place between Aboriginal Australians and the expedition of Captain Cook in 1770. Attractions at Kurnell include Cook's landing place, commemorative sculptures installed for the 250th anniversary of Cook's landing, and an environmental education centre. To the west of the National Park is a low-density residential area, several shops and an art gallery. The Kurnell Terminal Wharf associated with the Kurnell Port and Berthing Facility is located about 500 metres to the west of the proposed wharf. The biophysical environment within the Kurnell construction boundary is mostly cleared of vegetation along Monument Track to the existing viewing platform. Isolated trees follow the Track and more dense vegetation surrounds the grassed areas. The existing viewing platform extends out over a rocky shoreline.

Both La Perouse and Kurnell are recognised as having environmental significance due to biodiversity and heritage significance. Key environmental values include marine habitats that contain seagrass meadows, known and potential heritage items and values including Aboriginal heritage, non-Aboriginal heritage and underwater cultural heritage.



Figure 1-1: Project locations – regional context

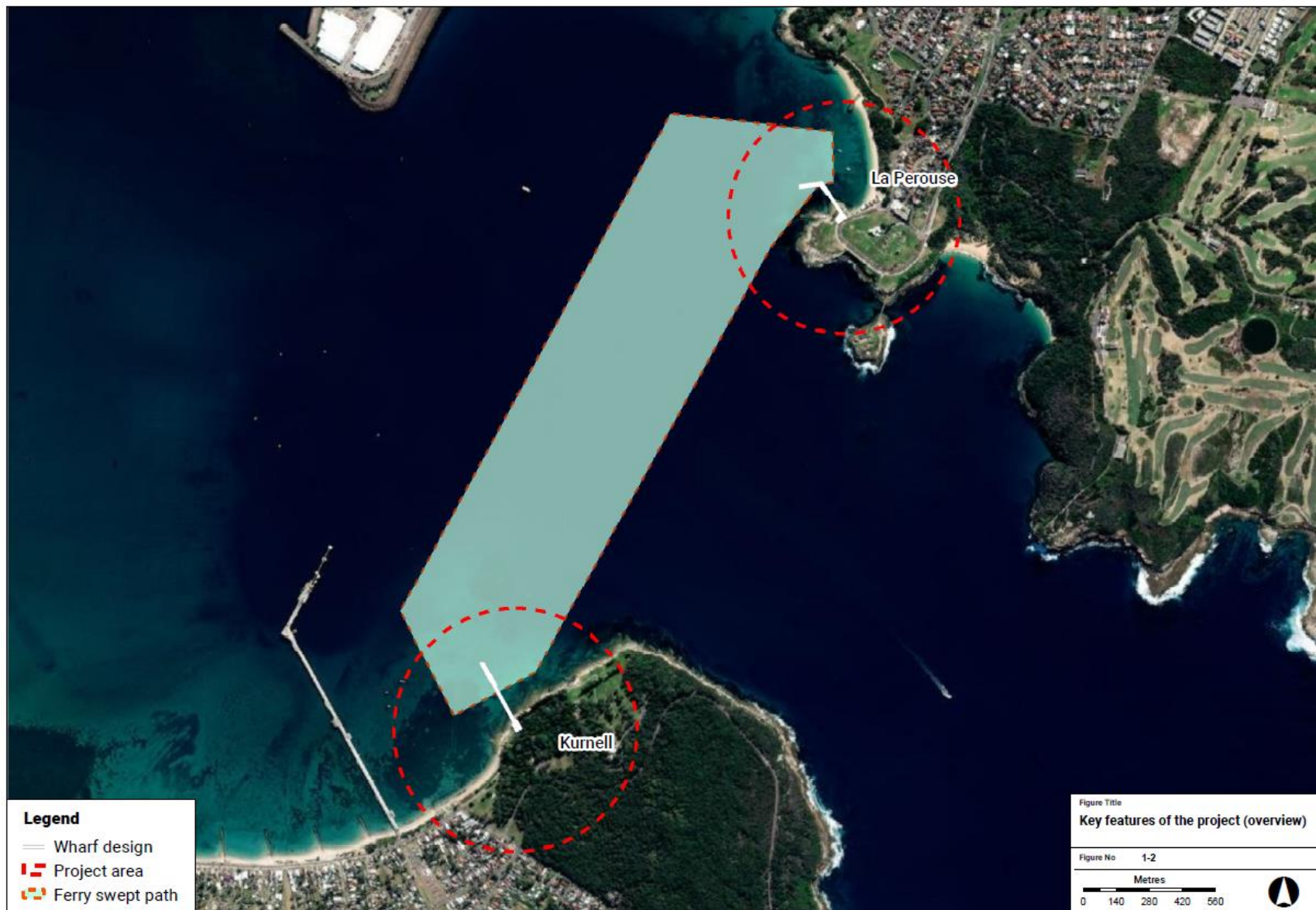


Figure 1-2: Key features of the project (overview)



Figure 1-3: Key features of the project (La Perouse overview)



Figure 1-4: Key features of the project (Kurnell overview)

1.3 Structure of this environmental impact statement

This EIS has been prepared to address the requirements issued by the Secretary of the NSW DPIE on 4 May 2021 and the relevant provisions of Schedule 2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000. These requirements are referred to as the Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs). The EIS also addresses the requirements issued by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment for a controlled action (issued on 12 January 2021). The EIS is divided into two volumes as shown in Table 1-1 and Table 1-2.

Table 1-1: Volume 1 EIS structure

Chapter	Title	Description
Chapter 1	Introduction	Provides a broad overview of the project and where it is located.
Chapter 2	Assessment process	Outlines the statutory requirements and explains the steps in the assessment and approval process.
Chapter 3	Strategic justification and project need	Provides the strategic context, explains the need for the project and identifies the project objectives.
Chapter 4	Project development and alternatives	Reviews the alternatives and options considered in developing the project including the consequences of not proceeding.
Chapter 5	Project description	Provides a detailed description of the project including the route alignment, design standards, key design features and construction methodologies.
Chapter 6	Consultation	Outlines the consultation activities undertaken, issues raised and how these have been addressed.
Assessment of key issues		
Chapter 7	Aboriginal heritage	Identifies the key environmental issues, assesses the impacts and proposes environment management measures.
Chapter 8	Non-Aboriginal heritage	
Chapter 9	Underwater heritage	
Chapter 10	Marine biodiversity	
Chapter 11	Terrestrial biodiversity	
Chapter 12	Traffic and transport	
Chapter 13	Landscape character and visual impact	
Chapter 14	Socioeconomic	
Chapter 15	Surface noise and vibration	
Chapter 16	Underwater noise and vibration	
Chapter 17	Soil, water and contamination	
Chapter 18	Coastal processes	
Chapter 19	Climate change	
Other issues		
Chapter 20	Air quality	Identifies other environment issues, assesses the impacts and proposes environmental management measures.
Chapter 21	Greenhouse gas	
Chapter 22	Sustainability	
Chapter 23	Waste	
Chapter 24	Hazard and risk	
Chapter 25	Cumulative	Outlines the potential cumulative impact of the project as a whole and in combination with other proposed developments.
Chapter 26	Environmental risk analysis	Details the risk analysis process and summarises residual impacts.
Chapter 27	Project justification and conclusion	Presents the justification for the project, including consideration of the principles of ecologically sustainable development and the objects of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> (NSW).
Chapter 28	References	Complete reference list.

Table 1-2: Volume 2 appendices

Appendix	Title
Appendix A	Project synthesis and summary of environmental management measures
Appendix B	Secretary's environmental assessment requirements and Commonwealth assessment requirements
Appendix C	Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 checklist
Appendix D	Consultation Process and Outcomes Report
Appendix E	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
Appendix F	Statement of Heritage Impact
Appendix G	Underwater Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
Appendix H	Marine Biodiversity Assessment Report
Appendix I	Biodiversity Development Assessment Report
Appendix J	Arboricultural Impact Assessment
Appendix K	Landside Traffic and Transport Assessment Report
Appendix L	Navigational Safety Assessment
Appendix M	Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment
Appendix N	Socioeconomic Impact Assessment Report
Appendix O	Surface Noise and Vibration Assessment Report
Appendix P	Underwater Noise Assessment
Appendix Q	Targeted Site Investigation
Appendix Q1	Preliminary Site Investigation - La Perouse
Appendix Q2	Preliminary Site Investigation - Kurnell
Appendix R	Groundwater Assessment Report
Appendix S	Surface Water Assessment Report
Appendix T	Coastal Processes Memorandum
Appendix U	Climate Change Assessment
Appendix V	Air Quality Assessment Report
Appendix W	Greenhouse Gas Calculations
Appendix X	Transport for NSW Environmental Record
Appendix Y	Transport for NSW Transport Environment and Sustainability Policy