

6 Consultation

This chapter provides an outline of the consultation carried out for the proposed modification to the project.

6.1 Introduction

This chapter provides:

- A summary of the consultation completed to date for the project and the proposed modification
- An outline of the consultation and engagement activities that will occur in the future.

6.2 Consultation during the preparation of the proposed modification

6.2.1 Summary of key consultation activities and consultation tools

The following section details the key consultation activities and tools used to consult on the proposed modification to date. Table 5-3 provides a summary of the community notifications and community engagement that has occurred, and the relevant feedback received.

Table 5-3 Community notification summary for the proposed modification to date

| Activity/Tool | Timing | Details |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| WestConnex Community Reference Group meeting – Rozelle Interchange | 7 May 2019 | <p>Overview of the tunnel alignment for the proposed modification presented. It was noted that the Iron Cove ventilation building on the surface would be relocated underground and that a shaft is now no longer required for the building. The ventilation outlet location would not change.</p> <p>It was noted that the proposed modification will be placed on public display and the community will be invited to provide formal submissions.</p> |
| Information session - Iron Cove community | 28 May 2019 (2 sessions) | <p>Drop-in information session about Iron Cove construction work. The proposed modification tunnel alignment was discussed and noted as being subject to formal public consultation and Ministerial approval. Residents were keen to be informed regarding when the proposed modification would be on display. Improved visual amenity and operational noise noted by attendees.</p> |
| WestConnex Community Reference Group meeting – Rozelle Interchange | 6 August 2019 | <p>An overview of the proposed modification tunnel alignment was presented. The justification for the proposed undergrounding was queried and it was noted that the proposed modification has been designed to minimise the long-term impact on the community.</p> <p>The alignment, depth and size of the proposed tunnel was queried, and details were provided.</p> <p>The need for additional subsurface stratum acquisition was discussed and it was noted that additional acquisition would be required and be completed in accordance with <i>the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 199</i>.</p> <p>It was noted that residences above the proposed ventilation tunnel and cavern alignment would be notified in advance of the public exhibition.</p> |
| Letter – hand delivered | 25 September 2019 | <p>Courtesy letter delivered to all properties located directly above the ventilation tunnel and caverns to advise them that the Tunnel Tool would be released the following day, and it would include the final location of the proposed modification.</p> |

| Activity/Tool | Timing | Details |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Online Tunnel Tool | Available from 26 September 2019 | An interactive tool showing the alignment of the proposed new Iron Cove ventilation tunnel and caverns, marked as subject to modification approval – https://v2.communityanalytics.com.au/ric/rozelle-interchange |
| Brochure - Rozelle Interchange tunnel alignment | 26 September 2019 | Tunnel alignment brochure delivered to 10,000 properties along the alignment including those located above the proposed modification tunnels. A brief section explaining the modification was included in the brochure. |
| Information session - tunnelling at Iron Cove | 3 October 2019 | <p>Group discussions with 30 residents and members of the design and construction team. A presentation was provided that included details about the proposed modification including the alignment and structures. Questions from the community were encouraged and were answered by the team.</p> <p>Residents sought further clarification about why the proposed modification is required. It was noted that the surface buildings in the EIS concept design would require the construction of a shaft to connect the ventilation facility building to the ventilation outlet that was not assessed in the EIS. Residents asked if tunnelling from Iron Cove is proposed and it was noted that this is being considered as part of the proposed modification, subject to consultation with DPIE.</p> |
| Information session - tunnelling at Iron Cove | 15 October 2019 | <p>Group discussions with 32 residents and members of the design and construction team. A presentation was provided that included details about the proposed modification including the alignment and structures, a site layout for the proposed Iron Cove tunnel support site and discussion of tunnelling from the Iron Cove site. Questions from the community were encouraged and were answered by the team.</p> <p>Attendees requested further justification for the proposed modification to the EIS concept design and confirmation of the tunnel depths as soon as possible.</p> <p>There were no issues raised regarding the proposal to tunnel from Iron Cove. Positive feedback was received regarding the session format and the level of detail provided about tunnel design and construction.</p> |
| Individual meetings | As requested | <p>Meetings with individual stakeholders impacted by the ventilation tunnels. The contractor has so far met with two stakeholders regarding tunnelling at Iron Cove.</p> <p>Concerns over shallow tunnelling were raised with further information provided about construction methods and monitoring.</p> |
| Email – Community input to Guide to Modification | 18 October 2019 | 270 local residents were emailed to seek community input as to what topics the community wished to have addressed in the Community Guide to the Modification Brochure |
| Doorknock | Target 2-3 days prior to exhibition | Doorknock properties located directly above the proposed ventilation tunnels and caverns to ensure they are aware of the proposed modification and understand how to make a submission. |

| Activity/Tool | Timing | Details |
|--|---|---|
| Brochure - Rozelle Interchange Community Guide to Modification | Coincide with modification report exhibition 20 November 2019 | A brochure distributed to all properties within 100 metres of the proposed ventilation tunnel and caverns, including properties on the east of Victoria Road (Balmain Shores). The brochure provides a simple summary of the proposed modification including what was in the EIS, what is being changed, the reasons why it is being proposed and concept drawings of final state. The brochure also outlines the consultation process and how to make a submission. |
| Email – Community Guide to Modification | Coincide with modification report exhibition 20 November 2019 | Email to be sent to the stakeholder distribution list for the Rozelle Interchange containing information on the proposed modification and how to make a submission. |
| Advert - Inner West Courier | Third week of November 2019 | A quarter page advert advising that a proposed modification relating to the Rozelle Interchange is now on public exhibition. |
| Information session – drop-in for Iron Cove work specifically | 20 November 2019 | Details of the proposed modification and other Iron Cove related construction work, on display for public viewing. Members from the construction and design team available to answer questions from the community. |
| Information session - Drop-in for all residents interested in Rozelle Interchange tunnelling | 23 November 2019 | Details of the proposed modification on display for public viewing. Members from the construction and design team available to answer questions from the community. |
| Email updates – construction lookahead | Every Friday | Sent to everyone subscribed to email updates for Rozelle Interchange and Iron Cove. Currently 270 residents near the Iron Cove site subscribe to the email updates. A reminder that the proposed modification is on public display and information on how to make a submission would be included. |

6.2.2 Consultation with local, state and commonwealth government agencies elected representatives and other industry and stakeholder consultation

Table 5-5 provides a summary of the consultation activities undertaken with local, state and Commonwealth Government agencies, elected representatives and other stakeholders prior to the modification going on public display. In addition to these meetings, regular phone and email Correspondence has taken place with these stakeholders.

Table 5-5 Stakeholder engagement summary for the modification to date

| Briefing | Timing | Feedback and comments |
|---|--------------|---|
| Inner West Council – Proposed tunnel and cavern alignment | 20 June 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of comprehensive community consultation with residents potentially impacted by the new ventilation tunnels • Benefits including improved urban design outcomes • Potential property impacts (condition survey and substratum) • Queried if the proposed modification increases operational energy requirements. It was confirmed that no additional ventilation fans are required and that energy usage during operation would not change |

| Briefing | Timing | Feedback and comments |
|--|--|---|
| Environment Protection Authority | 1 July 2019 3 July 2019 (Noise Branch) 21 October 2019 (tunnelling from Iron Cove presented) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of comprehensive community consultation with residents potentially impacted by the new ventilation tunnels • Need to consider human comfort vibration levels in assessing impacts of additional tunnelling • Need for water quality discharge impact assessment to address total groundwater inflows including those associated with the proposed modification • With respect to operational noise impact assessment, the need to ensure this represents worst case impacts (for example, scenario for fans operating simultaneously) |
| Department of Primary Industries Water | 10 July 2019 22 October 2019 (tunnelling from Iron Cove presented) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for baseline data on groundwater levels; noted that three years of data is available • Noted that alignment of the proposed new ventilation tunnel and caverns was in Hawksbury Sandstone • Noted that the High Voltage regulators are located on the surface and would not impact groundwater |

In addition to the meetings noted in Table 5-5, regular phone and email correspondence has taken place with these stakeholders. There have been a number of other meetings with key State government agencies and local council stakeholders and the contractor to discuss post-approval management plans required by Project Approval conditions.

6.3 Consultation during the exhibition of proposed modification

The Modification Report for Iron Cove ventilation underground modification will be exhibited from 20 November 2019 to 17 December 2019. The consultation activities planned during the exhibition period will provide community and stakeholders with an opportunity to find out detailed information about the proposed modification. The community and other stakeholders will also be able to provide feedback on the modification to DPIE as submissions. All feedback will be collated and presented in the Response to Submissions Report for the modification.

Consultation activities that will occur during the exhibition of the modification include:

- Distributing a Community Guide brochure clearly outlining details of the modification, justification, impacts and benefits of the proposal, and visual representation of the final state
- Doorknocking highly impacted residents, businesses and other stakeholders to explain the proposed modification and gathering any feedback
- Sending direct emails to registered stakeholders, including residents, landowners, stakeholders, businesses and community groups
- Providing webpage updates about the modification, which will be published on www.westconnex.com.au and will include information on how to make a submission
- Scheduling meetings and drop-in information sessions to allow the community to have their questions answered about the proposed modification.

All feedback will be collated and presented in the Response to Submissions Report for Iron Cove ventilation underground modification.

6.4 Consultation during and following DPIE assessment

Following exhibition of the proposed modification, Roads and Maritime and the contractor will review the submissions received and respond to the issues raised in a Response to Submissions Report for the modification. This report will be provided to DPIE and will be assessed prior to a determination being made. If during exhibition or during the response to submissions process further changes to the proposed modification are identified, these changes would also be described and assessed.

During DPIE's assessment of the modification and up to and following determination, Roads and Maritime and the contractor would continue to consult with the community and relevant stakeholders in line with the existing and modified (if approved) CoA, the Community Communications Strategy and established communication and complaints processes.

Communication and consultation with stakeholders and the community during construction would focus on providing updates on construction activities and program, responding to enquiries and concerns in a timely manner and minimising potential impacts where possible. Further detail of consultation with stakeholders and the community during construction is provided in section 7.6.2 of the EIS.

6.5 Ongoing consultation

Should the proposed modification be approved, ongoing consultation and communication activities would be undertaken with the surrounding residents and key stakeholders as required in accordance with the Planning Approval.