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NorthConnex – Update on tunnelling in your area

Dear resident,

We recently wrote to you regarding upcoming NorthConnex tunnelling work. In the past four to six weeks, tunnelling has been underway in your area at an average depth of 60 metres underground. This work has been carried out 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from the tunnelling site located at the Southern Interchange compound, West Pennant Hills.

Tunnelling equipment – roadheader and surface miner

You may have heard the roadheader in operation over the past few months. The roadheader is an excavation machine that has a rotating, rock-cutting head on the front, mounted to a boom. When the underground rock is cut, a loading device transfers the rock onto a conveyor belt which runs the spoil onto haulage trucks. The roadheader machine travels on bulldozer style tracks and weighs around 100 tonnes.

The project team has also commissioned two surface miners to assist with tunnelling. A surface miner helps remove the lower part of the tunnel known as the bench. The machine is driven along the tunnel, removing up to half a metre of rock via a special cutting drum which cuts and crushes the rock. Surface miners are good at creating smooth surfaces and are highly efficient at cutting the hard sandstone. A surface miner is currently operating from the Southern Interchange site.

Once the surface miner passes through, the remaining outer edges of the tunnel (known as ‘toes’) are required to be removed via an excavation hammer. The excavation hammer then excavates trenches along the side of the tunnel for electrical conduit and storm water.

What to expect

You may have noticed a low frequency rumble up to about 45dBA when the roadheader was working beneath your property. By comparison, a normal conversation is about 60dBA and a refrigerator is about 50dBA.

You also may have noticed the sound of the excavation hammer, which you may continue to hear at certain times during the next two months. In shallow depth areas, the excavation hammer has reduced hours of operation to minimise disruption to residents.

The project team will continue to work to minimise disruption to residents and we appreciate your patience while we carry out this work.



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You can visit www.northconnex.com.au to stay in touch with the latest project information including tunnelling progress and activities in your area.

If you have any questions or complaints, please don't hesitate to call us on 1800 997 057, email enquiries@northconnex.com.au or visit the NorthConnex Community Information Centre at 118 Yarrara Road, Pennant Hills, open Monday to Wednesday from 9am to 1pm.

Yours sincerely,

NorthConnex Project Team

Surface miner

