

Heritage considerations

Transport understands the historical importance of Manly Cove and the value placed on this area for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

A statement of heritage impact will be prepared as part of the EIA process.

The community will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the statement during the public display of the EIAs in 2022.



Manly Wharf 3

Next steps

The community will have an opportunity to review the outcomes of the EIAs for each project when they go on public exhibition in 2022.

Contact us

If you have any questions, would like more information about this project or to subscribe for updates, please contact the project team at:

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If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 770 973.



December 2021

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Transport for NSW

Manly Cove

Fact Sheet | December 2021



Manly Cove drone shot

Manly Cove is an iconic and locally significant place. People and vessels have been part of Manly, accessing the Cove by sea, for centuries and continue to do so.

Transport for NSW is carrying out two separate projects in Manly Cove, as part of the \$205 million NSW Government stimulus funding for maritime infrastructure and safety upgrades to improve the accessibility to and along the Cove for all of the community including those with assisted and unassisted mobility needs. The projects involve an upgrade of Manly Wharf 3, and work to enhance the area of the former Manly Sea Life site.

This fact sheet provides an overview of the environmental impact assessment process and the considerations given to sensitive key environmental features of the projects proposed for the Manly Cove area.

Environmental impact assessment

Detailed environmental studies will form part of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for each project. Transport has a statutory responsibility under the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) to consider the impacts of its activities on the environment. The EIA will:

- identify potential environmental impacts at an early stage in project development
- assess and evaluate the potential impacts of construction and operation of the projects

- develop measures to avoid or minimise potential impacts by:
 - modifying the design
 - identifying safeguards to be implemented during construction and operational phases
 - identifying potential offset requirements and implementing these during construction.

During early investigations for the proposed projects, Transport will consider the potential environmental impacts to gain an understanding of the possible constraints and opportunities, and to inform the development of the concept design.

Environmental assessment process

Preliminary environmental investigations for the project gathered baseline environmental information. These studies identified several key environmental sensitivities, including threatened species and ecosystems in and around Manly Cove, such as the Little ('Fairy') Penguins, seagrass species including *Posidonia australis*, *Zostera* and *Halophila*, and seahorses.

Transport recognises the heritage values placed on this area for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities. Each of these key environmental sensitivities has been carefully considered in the ongoing development and evaluation of design options.

Detailed environmental studies will continue to be carried out and include the assessment of aquatic ecology, biodiversity, Aboriginal cultural heritage, non-Aboriginal heritage, landscape character and visual amenity, traffic and transport, noise and vibration, flooding and hydrology, and socio-economic aspects, and the consideration of cumulative impacts.

As part of completing the detailed environmental studies, consultation will be completed with relevant government agencies and authorities, including the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), Energy, Environment and Sciences Group

(EESG), Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPI Fisheries), Heritage NSW, and Northern Beaches Council.

The technical assessment and consultation outcomes will inform the design process by identifying measures to avoid, minimise and mitigate potential environmental impacts during concept design, construction and operational phases of the projects.

All outcomes of the environmental studies will inform the development of the EIA documents, which will be comprehensive in describing the potential environment impacts and the proposed mitigation measures.

The community will have an opportunity to review all the studies during the public exhibition of the EIAs during 2022.



Biodiversity considerations

A biodiversity assessment report will be provided as part of the environmental assessments. Transport will consider marine species, including the Little ('Fairy') Penguin, seagrass and White's Seahorse, located near the proposed project sites.

Little ('Fairy') Penguins

The Manly area provides known breeding habitat for the *Eudyptula minor* (Little Penguin), which is listed as endangered under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act).

Transport recognises the Manly area is fortunate to have the only remaining Little Penguin breeding colony on the NSW mainland, and that this is valued strongly by Northern Beaches Council and the local community.

Throughout the environmental assessment process for this project Transport will work closely with relevant state agencies and Council to identify and understand potential impacts and mitigation measures in order to protect these important species.



Seagrass

Previous assessments carried out by Cardno Ecology Lab (2021 and 2017) identified the presence of the seagrass meadows within and near the project areas.

The area east of Manly Wharf has been identified and mapped as containing *Posidonia australis*, which is listed as an endangered population under the Fisheries Management Act 1994 (FM Act).

Seagrasses located near the proposed project site also contribute to fisheries productivity in coastal waters and provide important feeding and refuge areas for marine life.



Seahorses and other marine species

The *Hippocampus whitei* (White's Seahorse) is an endangered species in the Sydney Harbour area and favours shallow-water estuarine habitats.

Pylons and seagrass meadows have the potential to provide habitat for seahorses, sea-dragons, pipefish, pipe-horses and sea-moths, which are protected under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act and Fisheries Management Act 1994 (FM Act).

