

Questions about the Sydney Harbour Bridge waterproofing and resurfacing in January 2012



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

1. Why is the bridge being closed some weekends in January?

The Sydney Harbour Bridge will be closed to motorists as we waterproof and resurface lanes 1 to 6 across the bridge.

2. What will the bridge work achieve?

It's important to rejuvenate the bridge which will be 80 years old on 19 March 2012. Waterproofing and resurfacing will:

- Reduce the need for reactive maintenance.
- Improve road quality by providing a smoother and more durable road surface.
- Reduce road noise as the new surface will be smoother and quieter.
- Reduce the risk of corrosion and structural damage on the deck.

3. When will the bridge be closed to motorists?

Up to three consecutive weekends in January 2012 (13-16, 20-23 and 27-30) from 10pm Friday to 5am Monday. The third weekend will be set aside in the event of wet weather during the weekends of 13-16 and 20-23 January, as some essential work cannot be carried out in the wet.

4. Will public transport be affected?

Buses and trains will continue to operate, however, bus lane users should expect delays.

5. Why close the bridge in January and not another time?

The January holiday period traditionally has lower traffic volumes compared to other months so this period is best suited to major road work and traffic detours. Warm temperatures are required to ensure the best surface preparation and application of the waterproof membrane.

6. Why weekends and not week nights?

Closing the bridge for consecutive weekends will help complete the work as quickly as possible and provide sufficient drying time for the waterproof membrane.

7. Why so many weekends?

Due to the waterproofing and resurfacing work, two dry weekends are required. The third weekend is required in the event of a cancellation on either of the earlier dates.

8. What about the Sydney Festival events in the Domain?

Festival goers should leave the car at home and catch a train on these weekends. Those on bus routes should allow extra time for buses that travel over the bridge as there will be delays.

9. What about match goers at Sydney Cricket Ground, Football Stadium and Moore Park?

Match goers should leave the car at home and use public transport where possible.

10. What if I need to use the car?

Where possible, motorists are advised not to drive as there will be extensive delays. If you choose to drive, the alternative routes to cross the harbour are King Georges Road, Ryde Bridge and Lane Cove Road; and Victoria Road, Gladesville Bridge and Centennial Avenue.

11. Won't those routes be congested with traffic?

Clearways will be in operation on strategic corridors across Sydney to help manage traffic flow. The clearways extend to Beverly Hills in the south to Gordon in the north and Mosman in the east.

12. What if there is an emergency and an ambulance or fire engine need to use the bridge?

Emergency vehicles will have access across the bridge. Traffic management plans are in place for emergency situations.

13. Is there a problem with the bridge?

No. It has been more than 20 years since the last major resurface of the bridge and the first time in the bridge's 80 year history that we will strip back the road surface to the original concrete deck to carry out essential waterproofing work. This work will ensure longevity of the surface of the road.

14. Will the look or structure of the bridge change?

No. The bridge structure and appearance will remain the same.

15. Will the work be noisy for nearby residents, hotels and businesses?

To enable this work to be completed over two weekends work will be conducted on a 24 hour basis. Some of the work, particularly on Friday nights and Saturday mornings, will be very noisy. To remove the existing asphalt surface from the bridge deck, road milling machines and jack hammers will be used. This will start late on Friday nights and continue until around midday Saturdays. There will also be noise from reversing vehicles at various times throughout the weekend. We have been able to schedule some other noisy activities to daytime periods on Saturday and Sunday which aim to minimise the noise impact to nearby residents on these nights. However there will still be noise impacts over the weekend and we sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

16. Will pedestrians and cyclists be able to use the bridge?

Yes. The walkways on the bridge will remain open to the public, the eastern side for pedestrians and the western side for cyclists.

17. Will there be odour from the waterproofing material?

The materials being used for waterproofing produce odours. They will be applied to the approach and bridge decks prior to laying the new asphalt. While these odours are expected to disperse readily given the deck is up high and exposed to wind, odours may be noticeable depending on your location and prevailing winds.

18. Will the Bridgeclimb still operate?

Yes. Bridgeclimb tours will continue to operate.

19. Can taxis, hire cars and motorcyclists still use the bridge?

Yes. Existing bus lane users such as taxis, hire cars and motorcycles will have access but should expect delays. Emergency vehicles will also have access to the bridge.

20. What if I make a mistake and drive onto the bridge approaches?

The bridge will have traffic management measures in place well in advance of the bridge. Traffic controllers will be at various access points to the bridge. At these points you will be directed onto another road. Detailed maps of street closures are available on the web.

21. Do you have maps of the alternate routes I can take?

Yes. On the website there are maps showing alternative routes to using the bridge. Visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au