

Frequently Asked Questions

Macquarie Point Northern Access Road Project

Project overview

The Macquarie Point Northern Access Road Project is a key infrastructure initiative tied to the broader redevelopment of the Macquarie Point Precinct and will provide a northern entry into the Port of Hobart.

The project aims to enhance transport efficiency, enable public event access and integrate with surrounding developments including TasPorts' operations and TasWater upgrades.

The project is in the Concept Design phase, and we are consulting with stakeholder to further inform the design.

Construction is expected to start in late 2026.

What is the purpose of building the Northern Access Road?

The Northern Access Road aims to provide a safe and efficient northern entry into the Port of Hobart and the Macquarie Point Precinct. It will support public transport access during major events at the multipurpose stadium and improve connectivity to surrounding infrastructure.

Where will the road be built?

The Northern Access Road is expected to run from the Tasman Highway / McVilly Drive interchange around the north-eastern side of the Hobart Cenotaph towards the stadium and port and will include a bus plaza serving stadium event traffic.

As the road will provide an important northern access to the port, the route must be closely linked to the port entry point, as well as the stadium entry.

What are the project benefits?

The project will:

- Improve freight access by providing an alternate entry into the port, reducing congestion on existing roads and streamlining logistics.
- Support the redevelopment of the Macquarie Point Precinct by becoming an essential road to manage increased traffic and enabling construction activity.
- Enhance connectivity to underutilised areas within the Macquarie Point Precinct, making them more viable for commercial, residential, and public space development.
- Divert heavy vehicle traffic away from central Hobart, improving safety and amenity for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Facilitate integration with utilities and services such as water, power and public transport to support the urban renewal of Macquarie Point.

Why is it necessary to build the road now?

The Northern Access Road was originally intended to improve how freight would access the Port of Hobart but has now become essential due to the broader redevelopment of the Macquarie Point Precinct, including the stadium and mixed-use precinct.

The new road will ease congestion, boost connectivity, and unlock future investment, and the event bus plaza will ensure smooth transport for large crowds during major events.

Is the Northern Access Road being built primarily to service the stadium?

Although the road isn't designed exclusively for the stadium, the stadium's development has significantly elevated its importance. Alongside supporting the stadium, the road will improve freight access, public transport and long-term redevelopment across the Macquarie Point Precinct.

What is the purpose of the event bus plaza?

The event bus plaza will make it easier to get to major events at the stadium, with eight bus bays designed for quick and efficient public transport access to the area.

What other infrastructure is included in the redevelopment of the Macquarie Point Precinct?

The Northern Access Road is part of the redevelopment of the Macquarie Point Precinct, which includes the stadium, TasWater upgrades, TasPorts wharf redevelopments and improvements to public spaces.

How will the project integrate with all of the other projects being delivered as part of the Macquarie Point Urban Renewal Program?

To ensure the Northern Access Road Project is delivered efficiently, it needs to be planned and built in close consultation with other projects in the area.

The project team is working closely with the Macquarie Point Development Corporation and other stakeholders to ensure the road is integrated with the stadium development and operates effectively under event and non-event conditions.

What are the environmental and heritage concerns and how are they being addressed?

Concerns have been raised about potential impacts on heritage sites including the Cenotaph and Regatta Grounds, reduced river access and impacts to Aboriginal Heritage. These issues are being carefully considered during the planning phase of the project, and we are working closely with stakeholders to better understand their needs and expectations.

The draft concept designs show the road being built over the rail corridor. Will this rule out future passenger rail into Hobart?

While the Northern Access Road will improve road connectivity into Macquarie Point, it overlaps with the disused South Line rail corridor at McVilly Drive.

It will be necessary to consider how the delivery of the project may affect activation of the Northern Suburbs Transit Corridor at this location.

The Tasmanian Government is developing a strategic business case for a future rapid bus network for Greater Hobart, which incorporates the Northern Suburbs Transit Corridor.

The delivery of the future transit corridor will be a critical consideration in planning for the Northern Access Road.

Will the project impact the Regatta Grounds and the operation of the Royal Hobart Regatta?

The proximity of the Northern Access Road to the Regatta Grounds means that there may be some impact to the way the Regatta Grounds operate during events, including the Royal Hobart Regatta.

The full extent of this impact is still being assessed, and we are working closely with the Royal Hobart Regatta Association and other important stakeholders to better understand their needs and incorporate their feedback into our designs.

Will the Northern Access Road impact the Hobart Cenotaph?

The Northern Access Road is proposed to pass near the north-eastern side of the Cenotaph. It won't directly affect the site, with the proposed concept design aiming to minimise any potential visual impact and the overall character of the site.

We are working closely with RSL Tasmania and other stakeholders to better understand their concerns and potential mitigation measures.

Will the car park adjacent to the Hobart Cenotaph be removed?

It is not expected that the project will significantly impact the car park or toilet block, although it may alter the flow of traffic in the car park. We are working closely with City of Hobart to manage and mitigate any potential impacts.

Will the project impact the Soldiers Memorial Avenue?

The proposed design for the Northern Access Road is not expected to impact any of the trees or plaques on Soldiers Memorial Avenue.

We are working closely with Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue (FOSMA) to manage and mitigate any impacts, including a commitment that anyone working on the project will receive a site induction from FOSMA before working in the area.

Is there a plan in place for how people will access the Macquarie Point Precinct for major events?

Yes, planning and consultation with key stakeholders is underway to develop a Hobart-wide strategy for major events including safe pedestrian movements, road closures, traffic signals and event bus staging.

What are the next steps in the project?

Feedback from public consultation and stakeholder discussions will be reviewed and where feasible, integrated into the developed designs.

Site investigation, including geotechnical investigations, Aboriginal Heritage surveys and flora and fauna assessments will continue through until the end of the year.

When is construction expected to start?

Construction is expected to start in late 2026.

Will there be land acquisition?

Some land acquisition is likely however it is expected that this will be limited to publicly owned land.

Where can I get more information about the project?

Please contact the project team on 1800 100 255 or by email
majortransportprojects@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

