



The full width and height of the Hunter Street Station cavern has been excavated, making it the tallest and widest rail cavern in Australia.

Tunnelling maze evolves at Hunter Street Station

The NSW Government is delivering Sydney Metro West – a new underground metro railway which will double rail capacity between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD, transforming Sydney for generations to come.

This once-in-a-century infrastructure investment will provide fast, reliable turn-up-and-go metro services with fully accessible stations, link new communities to rail services and support employment growth and housing supply.

Stations have been confirmed at Westmead, Parramatta, Sydney Olympic Park, North Strathfield, Burwood North, Five Dock, The Bays, Pyrmont and Hunter Street in the Sydney CBD. Two potential station locations are being investigated west of Sydney Olympic Park, including one at Rosehill Gardens which could support a significant increase in housing.

Sydney Metro West will target an opening date of 2032.

John Holland CPB Contractors Ghella Joint Venture (JCG) has been awarded the contract to deliver 3.5 kilometres

of twin metro rail tunnels between The Bays and Hunter Street and excavate the Pyrmont and Hunter Street metro stations. This work is part of the Eastern Tunnelling Package (ETP) for Sydney Metro West.

Hunter Street construction activities

Site establishment works for shaft excavation are continuing at both the Hunter Street East and West sites, to prepare for the installation of the steel platforms (top of the shaft) in early 2025. The tower cranes at both sites have now been removed.

At Hunter Street West, demolition of the remaining buildings around Skinners Hotel is almost complete and hoarding has been installed around the site boundary for the temporary closure of Hunter Street.

Underground excavation at Hunter Street is progressing well, with three roadheaders working simultaneously to carve out the station cavern and turnback tunnel.

Construction update

Shaft excavation

Two shafts are being excavated for the entry and exit points of the future Hunter Street Station. The shaft at Hunter Street East will be about 37 metres deep, while the Hunter Street West shaft will be about 27 metres deep.

Piles have been installed to support the installation of a steel platform at the East shaft, which will be the top of the shaft, allowing shaft excavation to start underneath.

Excavation of the West shaft is expected to begin in early 2025. Additional support works are being undertaken at the heritage-listed Skinners Hotel, which will be incorporated into the future over station development of Hunter Street Station.



A 400 tonne crane lifts a large piling rig into the shaft during a complex engineering exercise at the Hunter Street East site.

Cavern excavation

The Hunter Street Station cavern will be the tallest and widest rail cavern in Australia. The full width and length of the cavern has now been revealed, with the lower levels (known as the bench) currently being excavated using a roadheader and rock hammer.

Once excavation of the bench and the invert (the floor of the cavern) is complete, work will begin to permanently line the cavern so it can be handed over to the following contractor.



The Hunter Street Station cavern is 28 metres wide, 20 metres high and will be 180 metres long.

Turnback tunnels

Another two roadheaders are excavating the 1.2 kilometres of turnback tunnels, which will allow trains to turn around after reaching Hunter Street and head west back towards Westmead.



Excavated material is removed from the Hunter Street turnback tunnel.

Due to the load of the high-rise buildings in the CBD, excavation of the turnback tunnels is being completed in stages. Highly reinforced concrete pillars have been installed to provide ground support and allow tunnelling to continue underneath these buildings.

The full length of the longest turnback tunnel, which runs beneath The Domain, has been excavated.

TBM tunnelling update

TBMs Jessie and Ruby have been tunnelling east from The Bays Station site towards Pyrmont, expecting to break through into Pyrmont Station next year.

The mixed shield TBMs use slurry technology to balance the pressure inside and outside of the machine as it moves through different ground conditions. Pipes and fluid control the pressure in the machine by turning the excavated material into a slurry mixture, which is pumped out of the TBM and back to The Bays station site.

Tunnelling and associated support activities occur 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



TBM Ruby launched from The Bays Station site and is now on its way to Pyrmont.

Six-month construction lookahead

Activity (subject to change)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Utility and geotechnical investigations	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●
Site surveys and installation of building and ground monitoring equipment	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●
Site establishment (shaft support and retention work)	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●
Excavation of station shafts	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●
Excavation of station cavern	●●●	●●●	●●●			
Demolishing existing structures using heavy machinery	●●	●●	●●			
Excavation of turnback tunnels	●●	●●	●●	●●		

Hunter Street East ● Hunter Street West ● Some out of hours works required ●

Heritage highlights

Archaeological investigations have provided some insight into the history of the Hunter Street Station site. De Mestre Place, located on the footprint of the West site, was named after Jean Charles Prosper de Mestre – a prominent businessman in the early 19th century.

A sandstone block wall, a sandstock brick well and sandstock brick wall footings were uncovered during archaeological investigations. These items are believed to be associated with the original occupation of De Mestre Place and are considered to be of State significance.

The area was investigated with hand tools and an excavator, further revealing items that likely date back to the 19th century, including glass, ceramic and animal bones. These items were photographed and removed from site for further analysis.



Archaeological investigations of De Mestre Place at the Hunter Street West site.



Some of the items uncovered during archaeological investigations date back to the 19th century.



Site establishment works for shaft excavation are continuing at the Hunter Street East site.

Our community teams

JCG has a team committed to working with the community as it delivers the project. The team will play an active role in getting to know and understand the local community to ensure that impacts on residents and local businesses are minimised.

Please contact the JCG community team on **1800 612 173** if you have any questions or would like to provide feedback about the ETP works at Hunter Street. JCG will continue to keep you updated on the progress of work in your area. If you would prefer to receive updates by email, please send a request to **MetroTunnelsJCGJV@transport.nsw.gov.au** and you will be added to the distribution list.

Sydney Metro Connect - another way to stay informed

Download Sydney Metro Connect onto your smart device to stay informed about current work, project milestones and receive notifications for upcoming work in your area—all in one place. Sydney Metro Connect is available from the App Store or Google Play.

Work hours

Tunnelling work is being undertaken 24 hours per day, seven days a week until late 2025. Some work activities are conducted outside of standard construction hours. JCG acknowledges that this work continues to have an impact on many local residents and businesses, and thanks you for your patience and cooperation so far. If required, out-of-hours work will occur in the CBD between 6pm and 7am Monday to Saturday.

The Eastern Tunnelling Package team wishes you a safe and happy holiday. Hunter Street construction sites will be closed between Saturday 21 December 2024 and Wednesday 1 January 2025 for the holiday period.

Weekly email updates

Weekly email updates provide the latest information about upcoming work including roadheader excavation progress. If you'd like to receive these email updates, please send a request to **MetroTunnelsJCGJV@transport.nsw.gov.au** and we will add you to the distribution list.

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact our project team:

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