

September 2021

West Pittwater Reliability Project Update



Scotland Island and Pittwater

Ausgrid is planning to improve the reliability of the local power supply to West Pittwater (McCarrs Creek, Elvina Bay, Lovett Bay and Morning Bay), following extended power outages to the area in previous years.

Background

Two 11,000 volt (11kV) submarine cables currently supply West Pittwater residents and businesses. Ausgrid has been considering a broad range of options aimed at improving energy security to the area.

In February 2021, Ausgrid announced a plan to install a new 11kV submarine cable underwater between Catherine Park, Scotland Island and Halls Wharf, West Pittwater that will provide a ring network for West Pittwater.

The submarine cable will provide a more reliable electricity network for West Pittwater and will:

- greatly reduce construction and maintenance costs;
- significantly reduce the environmental footprint
- limit visual impacts.

The detailed environmental assessment approvals have now been completed and Ausgrid is planning to commence works in September 2021.

Ultegra will be doing the work on behalf of Ausgrid, with specialist contractors.

Key dates

Early February 2021

Option announcement

- Community information about the project

February to August 2021

Project detailed design and approval

- Complete environmental assessment
- Contractor engaged for design and construction
- Develop detailed design
- Final project approval

September - March 2022

Construction

- Underbore rigs set up in Catherine Park and near Halls Wharf
- Bore under sea grasses from each end
- Barge in cable and lay under sea bed
- Connect cable into network

How will we do the work?

The new 11kV submarine cable will run underwater between Catherine Park, Scotland Island and Halls Wharf, West Pittwater. These works are considerably smaller in scale when compared to the recent Church Point to Scotland Island underbore works.

Site compounds and drilling (four weeks at each location)

We will:

- Set up site compounds (as per the maps below) and prepare the area for drilling operations
- Deliver the drilling rig to site using a barge about a week later
- Set up the drilling rig and drill through the rock, under the sea grasses up to 250 metres into Pittwater (Orange line on diagram)
- Install a High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe inside these boreholes, ready for cable installation.

Installing the cable

We will then need to return in November to install the new cable and connect it into the network.

We will:

- Barge the cable to site
- Install the cable from a barge in Pittwater through the entry/exit points and embedded approximately 1.5 metres deep along the Pittwater seabed.

The final restoration of the area will be carried out in consultation with Northern Beaches Council.

We will contact neighbours and send out notifications to each area, with more specific information on locations and timings of the work including any localised impacts.

Access for emergency vehicles through Bona Crescent will be available at all times.

Seagrass beds

To minimise the impact to the seagrasses at either end and to make sure that the cable is not damaged by anchoring and private moorings, the entry points will be bored from each shoreline to about 200 metres into Pittwater.

Working Hours

With statewide changes to construction working hours due to Covid-19, we are proposing to extend our usual working hours on site.

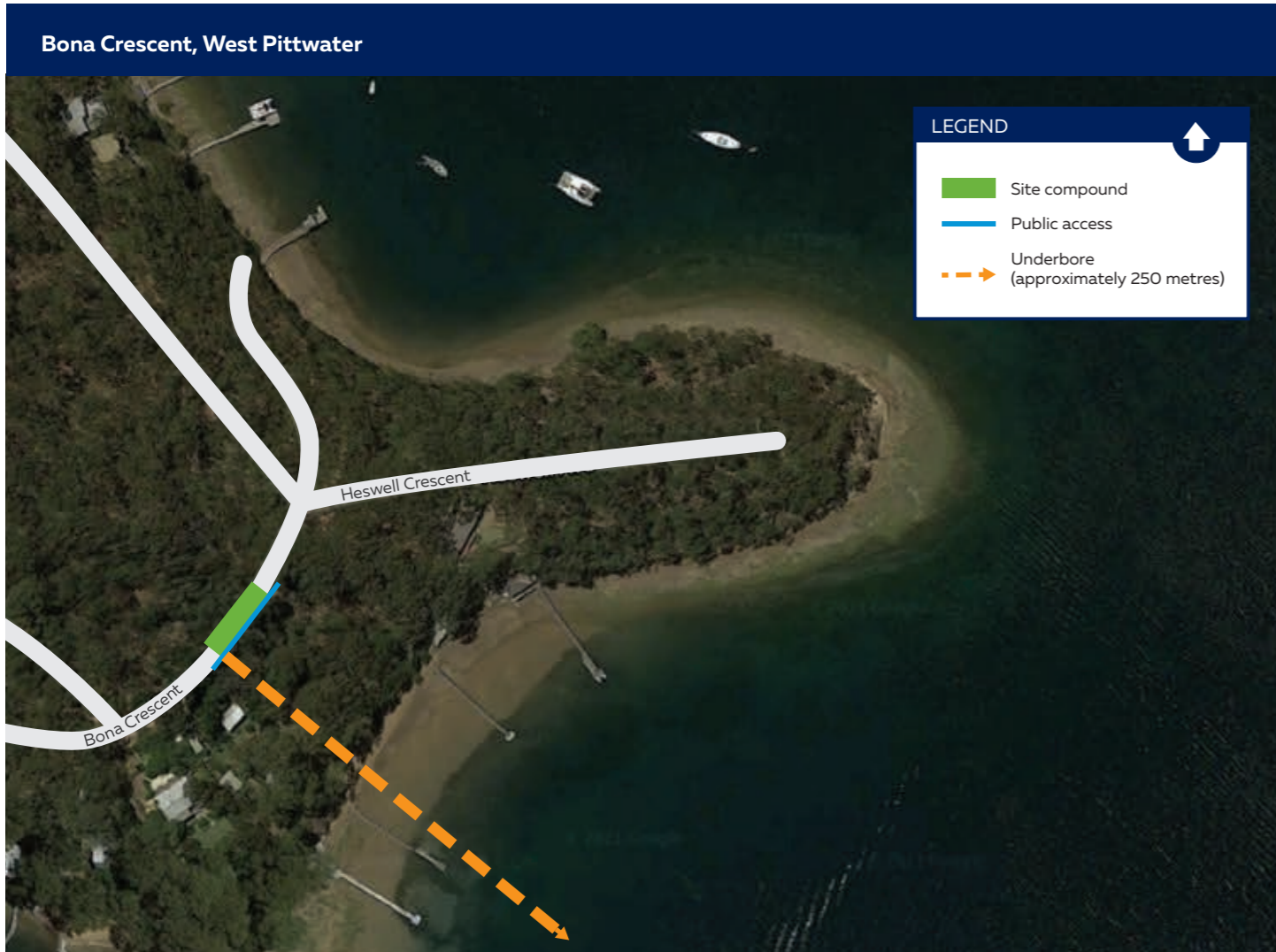
We are proposing to work:

- Monday to Friday** 6am to 6.30pm – with drilling work between 7am and 6pm
- Saturday** 7.30am to 5.30pm – with drilling work between 8am and 5pm
- Sunday** 7.30am to 5.30pm – with drilling work between 8am and 5pm

Please note: outside the abovementioned drilling hours, you will notice the project team on site, preparing for the work and carrying out maintenance work on the equipment.

These extended hours will allow us to complete the drilling works in a timely fashion. We will continue to monitor noise levels and will shorten drilling hours, if required or if the statewide changes to construction working hours change.

We would appreciate your feedback on these proposed hours as we do understand that they might be an inconvenience to you in the short term. Please feel free to email us on majorprojects@ausgrid.com.au

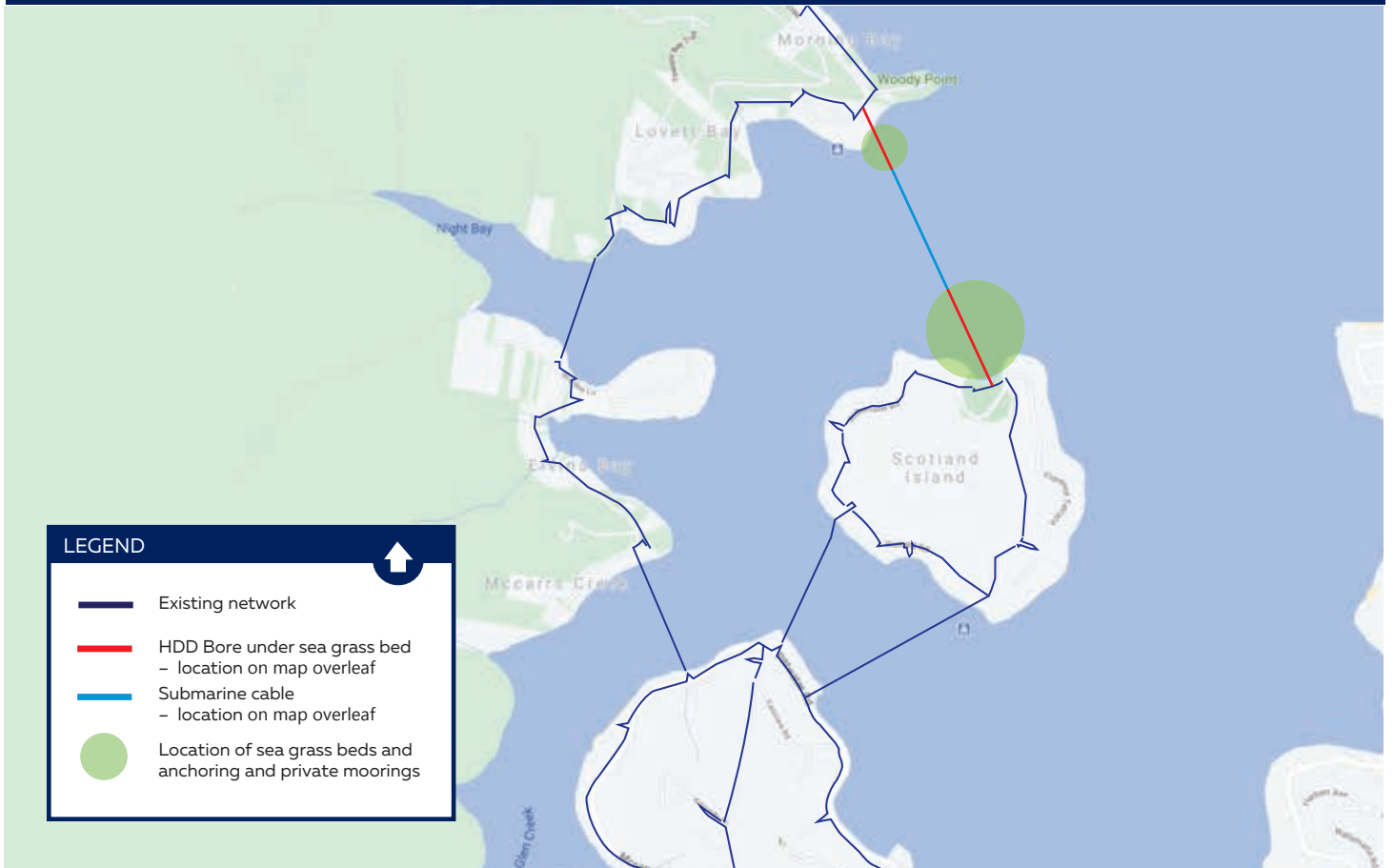


Work on Bona Crescent, near Halls Wharf is expected to start on **1 October 2021**, commencing with site mobilisation. This work is expected to take about four weeks to complete, weather and ground conditions permitting.



Work in Catherine Park is expected to start in mid to late **October 2021**. We will notify you again before we start the work. This work is expected to take about four weeks to complete, weather and ground conditions permitting.

Proposed ring network



Temporary impacts

During this work:

- You may notice more boats and workers in the area while we initially do investigation work and then when we are laying the cable.
- Access around the work zone may be restricted.
- There will be some noise and dust, however we will make every effort to keep this to a minimum and will try to finish the work as quickly as possible.
- Pedestrian and marine and traffic control will be in place to maintain the safety of both workers and the community.
- Noise mitigation and vibration monitoring will be in place around the drilling sites.

We will provide you with more information before this work starts.

Connecting you to the new cable

When the new cable is installed, we will commence works to connect the new cables into the network.

This work may involve short interruptions to your power supply to allow the work to be completed safely. Ausgrid will provide notification of planned interruptions to your power supply in accordance with the National Energy Customer Framework.

Keeping you informed

Ausgrid will issue email notification updates detailing work locations and dates. Residents can register for these updates to be emailed to them at:

majorprojects@ausgrid.com.au

For information related to the project visit our website at **www.ausgrid.com.au/ West-Pittwater-reliability-project**. Alternatively, you can contact Ausgrid on **1800 604 765** or **majorprojects@ausgrid.com.au**

We thank you for your continued patience as we work to improve network reliability in the area.

Contacting us

You are welcome to contact us with any enquiries:

Call 1800 604 765 (free call from fixed phones)

Email majorprojects@ausgrid.com.au

Visit www.ausgrid.com.au/
West-Pittwater-reliability-project



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