

Green Square to Ashmore Connector – review of environmental factors

Overview

A review of environmental factors is a planning assessment report used by councils to assess key engineering, environmental and planning issues associated with projects that are developed for use by the public.

This review has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 and the City of Sydney environmental impact assessment procedures manual (part 5).

The Green Square to Ashmore Connector is a 380 metre proposed road connecting Geddes Avenue in the Green Square town centre with Bowden Street in Alexandria. It will also link to Botany Road, O’Riordan Street and Bourke Road.

The connector will improve access for residents from the broader Green Square renewal area and the nearby Ashmore precinct to new public amenities in the Green Square town centre such as the library and aquatic centre. The road is consistent with our Sustainable Sydney 2030 vision and relevant state and local plans, policies and strategies.

We have used these principles in the design of the proposed road:

- maximise pedestrian and cyclist priority, accessibility, connectivity and permeability
- integrate links to public transport, including future provision for buses
- provide a separated cycleway, linking to the Green Square town centre and wider regional routes
- facilitate vehicle access in a slow-speed and safe environment
- demonstrate design integration and coordination with streets and built form
- develop a space that is safe, engaging and legible
- be fully integrated with the proposed water management and civil utilities design strategies
- apply accessible design principles and ensure safe and direct connection with adjacent streets
- provide a green landscape character
- integrate water sensitive design
- Implementation of Sydney streets code.

The City of Sydney is responsible for the construction of the proposed road which is planned to open in 2020.



Final design and construction is expected to start in 2019, once the City has satisfied all relevant assessment requirements and publicly exhibited of the review of environmental factors report.

This review has assessed the following key areas:

- engineering, environmental and planning factors such as traffic, transport and access
- design and operational requirements
- construction impacts and risk mitigation strategies
- impacts on flora, fauna and heritage
- legislative requirements and approvals.

This review has identified the following key findings:

- The road will improve safety and access for people walking and riding in the area by providing new signalised crossings and a separated cycleway on either side of the street.
- The traffic and transport impact assessment has found the road is unlikely to result in increased congestion on the existing road network.
- The road design allows for residue lands at the Botany Road end to be provided for affordable housing with up to 300 dwellings, together with commercial uses on the ground floor to generate local jobs.
- Street furniture and landscaping will improve the appearance of the roadway which will match with the Green Square town centre at the eastern end.
- Measures to ensure effective water management, water reuse and flood mitigation have been incorporated into the design of the road.
- The road contractor will be required to implement measures to manage construction impacts such as noise, traffic management, vibration, contamination remediation and dust.
- Contamination issues will be successfully managed as part of an approved remediation action plan.

Key elements being delivered with the road include:

- two directional cycleway on either side of the street
- street furniture including bicycle racks at regular intervals
- space for future bus stops
- wide pedestrian pathways (not in first instance but over the long term)
- street tree planting
- raingardens (small, green gardens to treat stormwater, protect local waterways and green inner-city streets).

Intersections

New traffic signals are proposed at the following intersections:

- Bowden Street, Bourke Road and the proposed road
- O’Riordan Street and the proposed road



- integration with the approved Botany Road and Geddes Avenue intersection.

Street Planting

We will plant over 30 new street trees along the road. Proposed species include:

- *Ulmus parvifolia* "Todd" (Chinese Elm) from Botany Road to O'Riordan Street East. A deciduous tree, losing its leaves in winter. This species carries over from Geddes Avenue planting, continuing the look and feel of the Green Square town centre
- *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box) from O'Riordan Street west to Bourke Road. An evergreen species.

Trees will provide a green canopy along the street, giving shade during summer and a strong vertical element to help ground the built form of future potential building developments on either side of the road.

The City will retain existing street trees where possible on interfacing streets.

We will also plant understorey and shrubs along the road to create micro habitats. Considerations for understorey planting include:

- prioritising native species (locally indigenous) that are drought tolerant and low maintenance
- using species that are spreading and low in nature to provide clear sight lines
- avoiding mono cultural planting and provide plant mixes that achieve more diversity and ensure long term success
- incorporating a rich palette of different plant communities in relationship to their location.

Proposed tree retention, removal and replanting plans and a health assessment of existing trees are outlined in Appendix G – Arboricultural Report.