

Waterloo to Surry Hills Cable Project



A similar cable project in progress

Project update

Ausgrid has finalised its plans to lay new 132kV underground electricity cables between Ausgrid's substation in Allen Street, Waterloo and our substation in Ann Street, Surry Hills.

These substations are connected by existing fluid-filled cables which are more than 40 years old and need to be replaced to maintain a safe and reliable power supply to customers.

Our contractors LSJDGJV will start construction activities in early 2023. This will involve trenching to install the new cables in the road and will continue for about twelve months.

Further information about what to expect during construction is over the page with a map of the cable route on the back page.

Project assessment and approval

Ausgrid is the approving authority for the work under the *NSW Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

As part of the approval process, we conducted an environmental assessment, known as a Review of Environmental Factors (**REF**) to investigate the potential environmental impacts associated with the project and identifying mitigation measures.

The final REF will be made available on the project web page (ausgrid.com.au/waterloo-surryhills) prior to construction.

Community feedback

In finalising the project Ausgrid has taken feedback received from the community and key stakeholders into consideration.

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback, including most recently on the REF, which was on public exhibition for comment from 9 September to 10 October 2022.

Ausgrid received one submission to the REF, the main areas of community interest were route selection and construction impacts.

The submission will be considered and addressed in the final REF. A report summarising all the feedback received from the community and key stakeholders during the development of the project will be available in the final REF when it is published in early 2023.

Working with you

We are committed to working closely with the community to minimise disruption where possible.

Your questions and comments about the project are welcome at any time to help us and our contractor manage the construction work effectively.

Work will be done progressively along the route, which means it may be some time before we begin in your area. You will receive a letter approximately one week before work begins near you, including information about how you might be impacted.

We apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused by this project, and we thank you for your understanding and patience.

What to expect during construction

Below is a summary of the type of activities that can be expected during this project.

Site investigations

Our contractors LSJDGJV will undertake site investigations along the cable route before trenching starts to assess ground conditions and locate existing underground utility services. This will help confirm the final position of the new cables and conduits in the road and the location of associated pits.

Trenching and laying conduits (plastic pipes)

The most common activity will be digging approximately 1.3 metre wide trenches in roads and laying conduits to accommodate the new cables, this may be wider when crossing over or under existing underground services. There will be a number of crews doing this work at multiple locations along the cable route.

Typically, trenching, and temporary restoration takes about a few days outside each property, depending on the ground and weather conditions.

Joint bays and other associated pits

Underground joint bays and hauling pits will be excavated along the route. These will be used to pull through and joint sections of cable together.

Joint bay will be about 2 metres wide and 10 metres long and cable hauling pits are smaller. These will be excavated in preparation for cable installation.

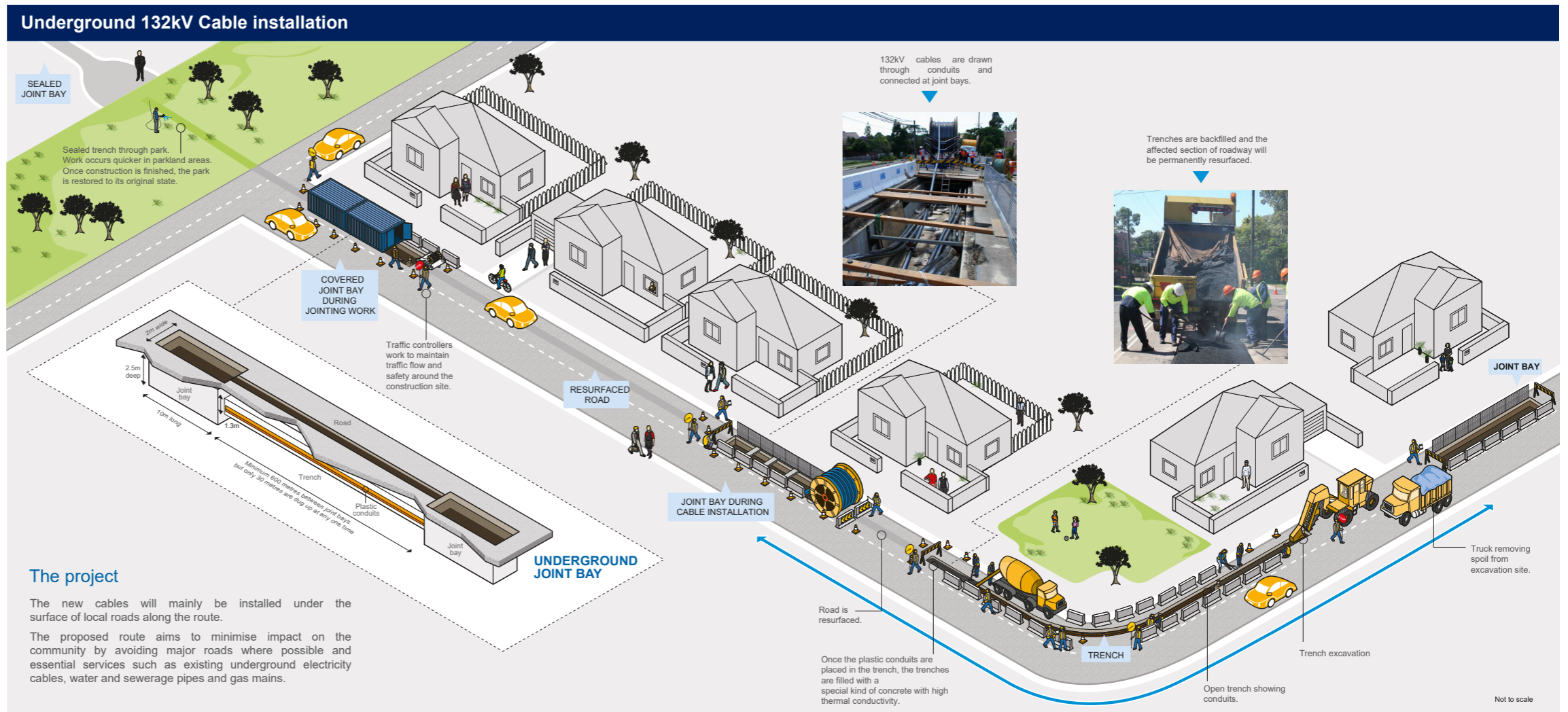
Joint bays will be in place for 2-4 months to allow for cable jointing. While the hauling pits will be backfilled following cable installation.

Installing cables

Once the joint bays and pits have been built, we will install the new cables. This will involve transporting the cables to the joint bay locations on large cable drums and pulling them into the conduits.

Work hours

Typical work hours are 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday, and 8 am to 1 pm on Saturdays. Some work will be done at night to avoid traffic disruptions during the day, for example; McEvoy St, Redfern St, Cleveland St, Foveaux St and Albion St. We will notify nearby properties before this work happens.



The project

The new cables will mainly be installed under the surface of local roads along the route.

The proposed route aims to minimise impact on the community by avoiding major roads where possible and essential services such as existing underground electricity cables, water and sewerage pipes and gas mains.

Construction stages

Trenching and conduit installation

- Trenching can occur on more than one site on a project simultaneously.
- Conduits will then be placed in the trenches and then the area is backfilled with a special kind of concrete.
- The section of the road would then be permanently reinstated at the end of the project, in consultation with the Council.



1-3 days
Time it takes to complete work outside most properties.

Underground joint bays

- Underground joint bays will be constructed minimum 600m or more along the route.
- The joint bays are used to connect the cable sections.
- Between construction of the joint bay and connection of the cables, joint bays are either backfilled temporarily, barricaded or enclosed. Once cables are connected, the section of road is resurfaced.



2-4 months
Overall time it takes to work at each joint bay location.

Cable installation

- At a later date, cable drums will be set up at joint bay locations.
- The 132kV cables are pulled through the conduit and connected at the joint bays.
- Cable connection takes one to two weeks.



2-4 weeks
Time it takes to complete work outside most properties.

Restoring impacted areas

Typically, restoration is done in two stages:

- Excavated sections of road are filled and resurfaced straight away to allow normal use by traffic.
- Permanent resurfacing of the affected areas is done later once all cables are installed and tested.

Your power supply

Ausgrid does not plan to interrupt your power supply to complete the construction work. We will let you know in advance if this changes.

Managing impacts

As with any construction work, there will be some temporary impacts for residents and businesses on or near the cable route. This may include noise, traffic and parking disruptions. We will make every effort to keep these impacts to a minimum.

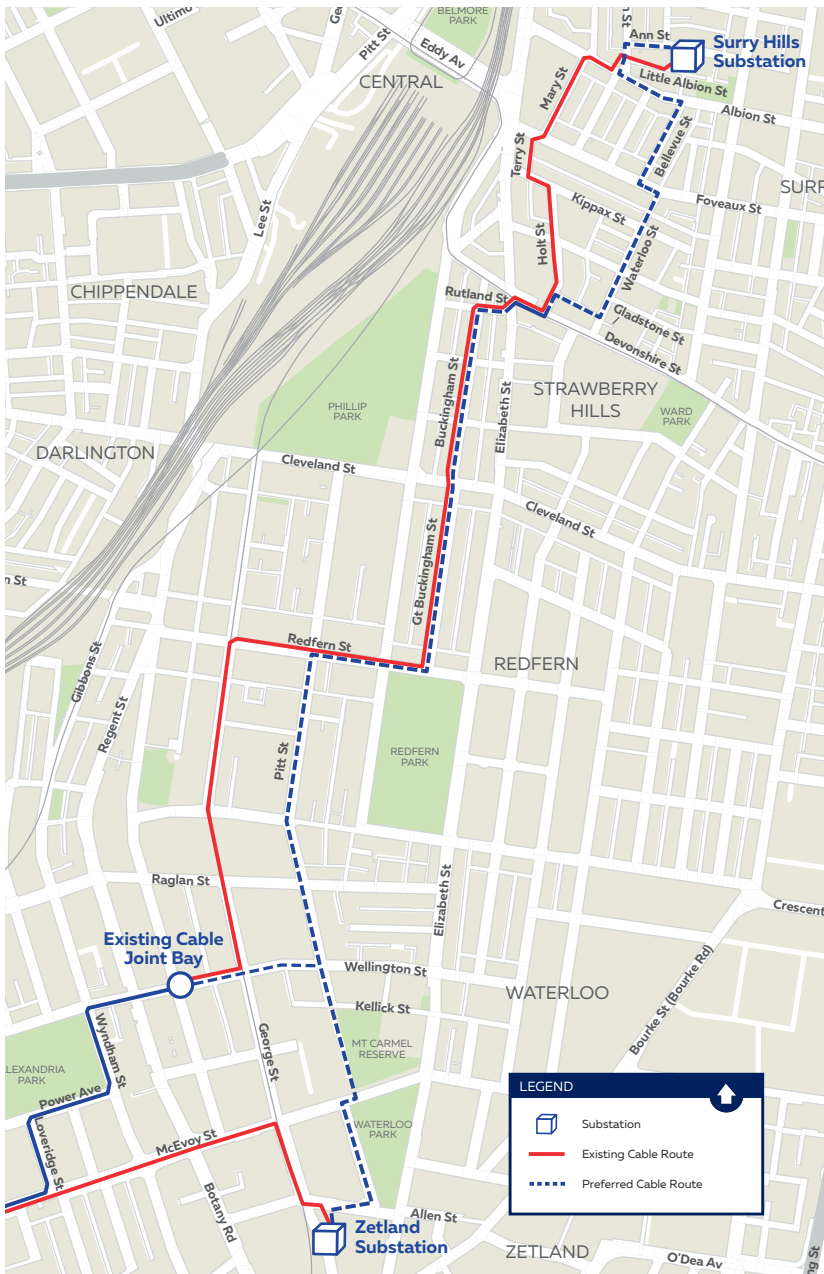
Our contractor will use traffic management crews to guide drivers, pedestrians and cyclists safely around the work areas.

Sections of the parking lane will need to be closed in streets where the crews are working, but these will be opened up again as they move along the street.

Environmental and health standards

Ausgrid plans its infrastructure in line with relevant environmental and health standards for the protection of both the environment and the community. This includes designing and operating all new equipment to minimise electric and magnetic fields, minimising tree trimming and removal and managing issues such as dust, noise, and vibration during construction. The final REF has more details on how these impacts have been assessed.

Preferred route



Key dates

- **Mid 2021 – February 2022**
Investigating route options and obtaining community and stakeholder feedback.
- **February 2022 – August 2022**
Feedback used by Ausgrid to refine construction plans. Site investigations.
- **September 2022 – October 2022**
Review of Environmental Factors (REF) on public display.
- **October - November 2022**
REF exhibition complete and submissions assessed.
- **December 2022**
Project approved for detailed design and construction, contractor appointed, and construction program prepared.
- **Early 2023**
Detailed design and start of construction.
- **Mid – Late 2023**
Installing cables and connect new cable to the existing network.
- **2024**
Retire existing cables.

We are here!

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 ausgrid.com.au/waterloo-surryhills



Interpreter service 131 450

