

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Geotechnical Investigations August 2021

Transport for NSW is required to carry out underground investigations to identify soil and rock types and conditions under the surface at selected locations along the preferred strategic corridor for the Moruya bypass.

This work will provide an understanding of the environmental conditions within the project area and help inform the environmental investigation process and the design of the project.

### Who is undertaking these works?

Arup Australia has been contracted to complete these works on behalf of Transport for NSW. Transport and Arup will aim to use local contractors in instances where suitable local resources are available.

### Why is there an initial site inspection?

Our project team would visit your property to complete an initial site inspection prior to the geotechnical investigations. This inspection will allow the project team to gather important information that will inform the geotechnical works, including the location of any underground services or potential hazards. It is an opportunity for you to address any concerns you may have with the investigation team.

No heavy machinery will be used, or ground disturbed during this initial site investigation.

We understand you have granted permission for the project team to access your property to undertake this initial site inspection. Transport thanks you for your assistance while we complete this important work.

### What should I expect?

Following the initial site inspection, the geotechnical investigation work will take place. This work will take place from Monday 30 August and will take about eight weeks to complete, weather permitting.

Transport will contact property owners directly by telephone and / or email to advise the exact date or dates that the work will take place at properties.

The duration of work at each property will vary. The duration depends on the type of work required. In general, the work will take place over two or more days. Work will include drilling or excavating holes, or bores, to collect information on underground utilities, soil and rock samples and installation of groundwater monitoring equipment.

## **How will we work with property owners and tenants?**

Before starting geotechnical work, we will call you to arrange a time for members of the project team to visit your property, usually as part of the site investigation process. If you are unavailable when the team visits, they will follow up with a phone call.

We can answer questions address any concerns and discuss any particular site issues about the geotechnical investigations at this stage to help us minimise impacts on your property and daily activities, where possible. We will then schedule an appointment for the work to begin on your property. We will make a reasonable attempt to adjust the timing of work to better fit property owner and tenant schedules or preferred times.

Photos of the property will be taken before geotechnical work begins to ensure the property is restored to existing conditions.

## **What type of works are being undertaken?**

There are two types of works being undertaken: borehole drilling and test pit excavation.

These types of investigations provide detailed data that will help the project team to assess and mitigate potential hazards and inform the project's environmental assessment process and design.

## **What is borehole drilling?**

The borehole drilling will use machinery similar to the images at the bottom of this document. A float will need to be parked somewhere safe, within the property if possible, to be able to take materials from the drill rig.

With landowner approval, the float will then remain onsite for the duration of the drilling for that property.

All borehole drilling will be carried out under the full-time supervision of Field Engineers.

Boreholes are expected to range from six to 20 metres in depth and will be backfilled with spoil and grouted upon completion.

Several boreholes will have groundwater monitoring equipment installed and will require ongoing access to collect data. Landowners will be informed of monitoring locations and the frequency of data collection prior to equipment being installed.

## **What is test pit excavation?**

Machinery similar to the photo at the bottom of this document will be used for test pit excavation. A float will need to be parked somewhere safe within the property, if possible, to be able to off-load the backhoe or excavator. A photo of a float can be viewed at the bottom of this document.

With landowner approval, the float will then remain onsite for the duration of the excavation scope for that property.

## **What equipment is being used for geotechnical work?**

The equipment used for geotechnical work will vary depending on the constraints and soil types of each property and may include:

- a tracked drill rig
- an excavator with up to 20-tonne capacity
- an 8 tonne backhoe
- large trucks for transporting equipment.

Images of these equipment and vehicles are at the bottom of this document.

### **What if my property is damaged during geotechnical work?**

Transport will do everything possible to prevent damage to your property and doesn't expect damage to occur. During the site investigations, Transport will take "before" photos to confirm existing conditions of the property and to ensure the property is restored to existing conditions after work is complete. We expect restoration will be at completion of excavation associated with geotechnical investigations. In the unlikely event that damage occurs, we will repair it.

### **Is it safe for me to stay at home or at my business while geotechnical work is happening on my property?**

Yes, it is safe for property owners, tenants, and customers to be present while this work is going on. However, you will not be permitted within five metres of the geotechnical activities for safety reasons. In particular, we recommend that children and pets stay away from geotechnical equipment. While equipment can vary by property, on this occasion works will typically be completed with an excavator or backhoe.

### **Is this work COVIDSafe?**

For the safety of the community and workers, project teams have COVIDSafe plans in place. COVIDSafe plans consider field investigation work in the project area and travel to and from site and incorporate up to date NSW Health advice.

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As of August 2021, anyone travelling from the Newcastle/Hunter region and Greater Sydney region (including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour) into the region for essential work requires a COVID-19 test on a weekly basis. Proof of a negative COVID-19 test is required at all times. Any team member travelling from these areas must comply with the stay at home order while in regional NSW. Additional rules and testing are applied to workers from some local areas in Greater Sydney.

All work will be undertaken outdoors and in remote areas where social distancing can be followed.

Team members will always follow NSW Health social distancing guidelines if interactions with the community are required. To protect everyone's health we are:

- Limiting face to face meetings with stakeholders by arranging phone meetings where possible
- Wearing a mask when a face to face interactions are required, and maintaining a 1.5 metre distance and not shaking hands

## Frequently Asked Questions - Geotechnical Investigations August 2021

- Encouraging the community to phone or email the project team. We will also provide regular communication on our website, email and by notification letters for work occurring near you.

Our teams are monitoring the situation and Transport will keep the community updated with any changes.

### Images of equipment and vehicles



A tracked drill rig floated on the back of a truck



A support vehicle



A typical borehole drill set up



A 20 tonne excavator on a float

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A backhoe undertaking test pit excavation



Test pit reinstatement

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### How can I find more information?

For more information on the project or if you have any questions or complaints, please contact our project team.

#### Contact us

-  1800 719 759
-  [moruyabypass@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:moruyabypass@transport.nsw.gov.au)
-  [nswroads.work/moruyabypass](http://nswroads.work/moruyabypass)



If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call the project team on 1800 719 759.