

Well drilling activities within the River Torrens to Darlington (T2D) Tunnel Protection Areas

The Australian and South Australian governments are delivering the most significant infrastructure project ever undertaken in South Australia, the 10.5km River Torrens to Darlington (T2D) Project.

Two sets of twin tunnels will be built in the north (Richmond to Torrensville) and south (Clovelly Park to Glandore) with an open motorway connecting them. When complete, more than 50% of the T2D motorway will be underground tunnels.

Before tunnelling works start, there are measures we need to put in place to protect the integrity and ongoing operations of the new tunnels.

Protecting the T2D tunnels

The construction and maintenance of boreholes and wells is a high-risk activity due to the potential to intrude into the corridor required for the tunnels and/or cause a change in the loading (also known as stress or pressure) on the tunnel corridor through the extraction or recharge of ground water.

Introduction of additional review process to consider impacts on tunnels when assessing drilling permit applications

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is responsible for assessing applications for permits required under *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* for the drilling, plugging, backfilling, sealing of a well or repairing, replacing or altering the casing, lining or screen of a well.

These permits are known as 'Well Construction Permits' and are required for well construction and/or maintenance for any purpose, including:

- taking of water, such as for irrigation, domestic, stock, industrial, firefighting;
- scientific purposes or test wells, such as investigation, monitoring, remediation of contamination, geotechnical and other non-consumptive uses; and
- drainage.

To address the risk of drilling activities impacting on the T2D tunnels, all applications for Well Construction Permits within the designated T2D Tunnel Protection Areas (TPAs), that exceed a depth of 2.5m, will now be subject to review by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT).

The review will determine potential impacts on the tunnels. The review findings will be considered by DEW in assessing the application. The application will continue to be assessed under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* and the provisions of the Adelaide Plains Water Allocation Plan.

What will DIT consider in its review of the impacts on the tunnels?

DIT will consider the location and depth of the proposed well in relation to the proposed tunnels and associated underground infrastructure. The purpose of the well and materials used will also be considered.

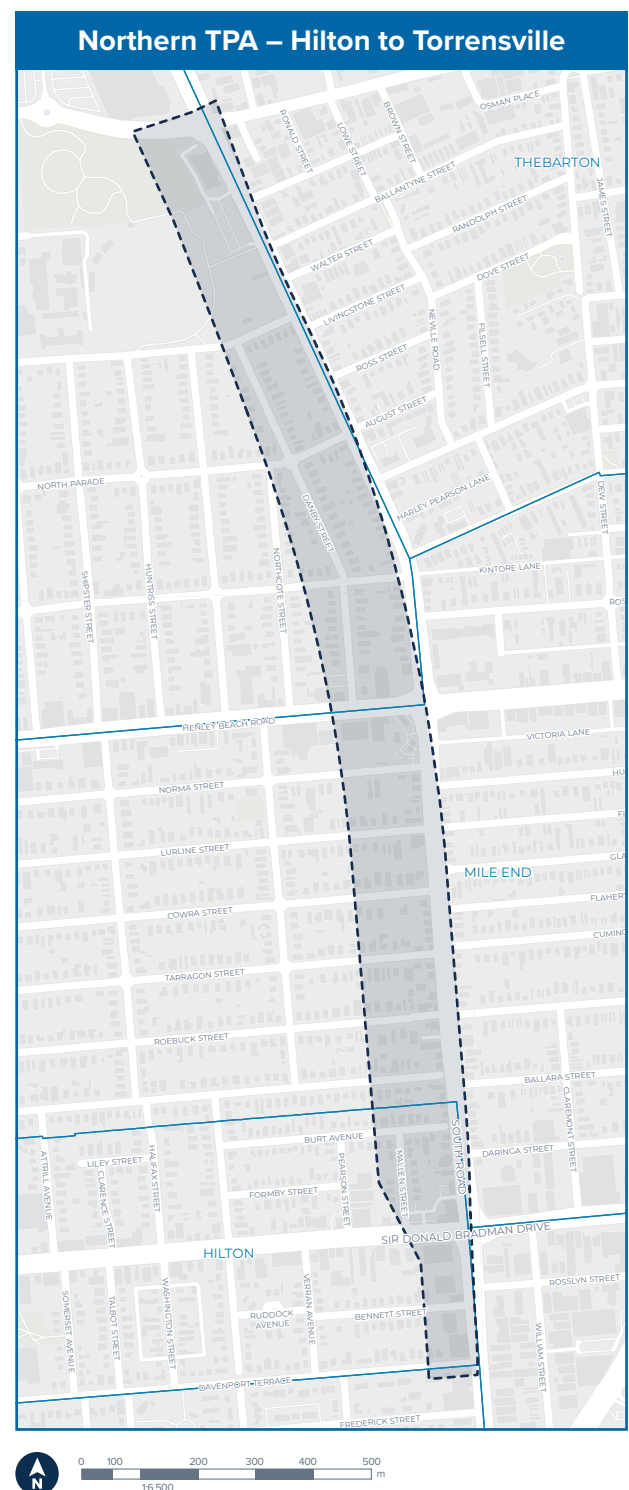
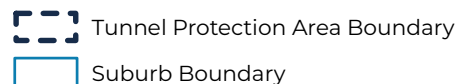
DIT's advice on the potential impact of drilling activities will be on a case-by-case basis. If a concern is identified as part of the review, alternative locations for wells may need to be identified to mitigate the risk to the tunnels.

The advice will also note if the proposed drilling activity intrudes into underground land owned by the Commissioner of Highways, which would require separate approval from DIT to access the land for drilling purposes.

What locations are affected and where are the Designated Tunnel Protection Areas (TPAs)?

The TPAs are shown below. Generally, they include the area near South Road between Clovelly Park and Glandore (Southern TPA) and between Hilton and Torrensville (Northern TPA).

* Detailed maps of the TPAs are available on the South Australian Property and Planning Atlas (sappa.plan.sa.gov.au) – see Tunnel Protection Overlay of the Planning and Design Code.



Potential changes to TPAs following detailed design and construction

The TPAs are based on the current T2D design and tunnel alignment, known as the Reference Design. A more detailed design and alignment will be prepared following appointment of a head contractor in mid-2024 and may result in minor changes to the TPA.

Following approval of the final design and construction of the tunnels, the Tunnel Protection Areas (as depicted in the Tunnel Protection Overlay of the Planning and Design Code) will be updated to reflect the final alignment and made available on the SA Property and Planning Atlas (SAPPA) website.

Who needs to be aware of this change when planning drilling activities?

Licensed drillers, landowners, and occupiers of land planning to undertake well drilling activities within the T2D Tunnel Protection Areas will need to be aware that impacts on the T2D tunnels will be considered in assessing Well Construction Permits.

Will all applications for Well Construction Permits in TPAs be refused?

No, it is not anticipated that all permits will be refused in TPAs. DIT recognises the importance of well drilling for a range of purposes including supporting environmental management and development activities.

How do I look up the Tunnel Protection Areas on the SAPPA website?

To view all areas affected by the TPAs:

1. In the top toolbar select 'Layers' and the 'Layers' menu will appear on the left of screen.
2. From the 'Layers' menu, select 'Planning and Building', then select 'Planning and Design Code', then select 'Overlays'. In the 'Overlays' section, select 'Infrastructure and Transport Overlays', then select 'Road and Rail', then tick the box next to 'Tunnel Protection Overlay'.
3. The Tunnel Protection Overlay areas will appear on the map screen. You can then zoom in to see details.

OR

See if a specific property is within a TPA:

1. In the top toolbar select 'Find' and the 'Find' menu will appear on the left of screen.
2. Look up the property by Address, Plan and Parcel Number, Title Reference or Valuation Number.
3. In the top toolbar select 'Info' and an 'Info' panel will appear on the left of screen.
4. From the 'Info' panel select 'Planning Zones and Overlays' and a pop-up box will appear listing all zones and overlays applicable to the property. If the property is in a TPA, the 'Tunnel Protection' Overlay will be listed.

Further information

For further information on drilling in a designated TPA, please contact the DIT T2D Project Team on:

- Phone: 1800 572 414
- Email: T2D@sa.gov.au

We speak your language



Need information in your language? Call the Interpreting and Translating Centre on:  1800 280 203

For more information



1300 951 145



T2D@sa.gov.au



T2D.sa.gov.au

Meet with the team face-to-face

Visit the T2D Project website for opening times and how to make an appointment to meet the team.



Community Information Centre (southern)

1194 South Road,
Clovelly Park



Community Information Centre pop-up (northern)

Brickworks Marketplace, Shop 24,
(Corner of South Road and Ashwin Parade, Torrensvile)



Australian Government



Government of South Australia

Department for Infrastructure
and Transport