

# REOPENING OF TUNNEL 1 WITH A TEMPORARY LINING FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

## Fact Sheet

The Harbour Trust is pleased to have reopened Tunnel 1 on Cockatoo Island following its closure for structural reasons in June 2020. Shipping containers have been temporarily inserted, providing a secure passageway for visitors between the waterfront campground on the northern apron and the docks precinct on the southern apron. The newly opened tunnel will also be used as shelter for visitors and staff during emergencies or inclement weather. The containers will remain in place until more permanent steps can be taken to repair the tunnel's inner lining.

### **Why was this necessary?**

In June 2020, the Harbour Trust noticed structural issues in the concrete lining of the tunnel ceiling. The extent of the structural issues deemed access to the tunnel a risk to public safety. The Harbour Trust had hoped to undertake a full restoration of the tunnel to ensure it could be safely reopened to the public, however the cost of this was prohibitive at that time. Therefore, in order to open the tunnel for public access, we had to investigate more affordable short to medium-term solutions.

### **Was the heritage value of the tunnel preserved?**

By inserting the temporary lining made of shipping containers, the Harbour Trust has been able to return tunnel access to the public while also preserving safety and the heritage value. The tunnel itself has not been impacted by these works, and the Harbour Trust is committed to ensuring that a more permanent repair can be completed in the future. The shipping containers have openings along their length for visitors to be able to view the sandstone lining of the tunnel and understand its history. We will also be undertaking work to interpret and enhance the understanding of the tunnel for all visitors to Cockatoo Island.

As with everything we do, we worked closely with heritage and engineering experts on this project to ensure that there was no risk of damaging this important historical landmark.

### **How long is this temporary solution and will the tunnel be returned to its original state?**

The Harbour Trust has recently completed the master plan for Cockatoo Island; this will reinvigorate the island and help to preserve its unique history. The temporary lining of Tunnel 1 has a life span of up to 10 years. The Harbour Trust is working hard to ensure that funding is available to successfully complete the permanent relining to ensure that the tunnel is returned to its original state as soon as possible.

*If you have any questions regarding the temporary lining of Tunnel 1, please contact the Harbour Trust via [engagement@harbourtrust.gov.au](mailto:engagement@harbourtrust.gov.au).*