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New bridge boost for Wentworth Point and Rhodes residents

The NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure has approved construction of a \$43 million bridge across Homebush Bay to assist residents of waterside urban renewal areas to more easily access public transport, jobs and open space.

The 300m bridge will be of particular benefit to the Wentworth Point area, which has just been announced as the site of a new Urban Activation Precinct.

The bridge will be used by local buses and emergency service vehicles along with cyclists and pedestrians.

Chris Wilson, the department's Executive Director for Development Assessment Systems and Approvals, said the bridge had been approved after careful consideration of several issues, including potential contamination and noise impacts.

"The bridge will make it easier for existing and future Rhodes and Wentworth Point residents to access shops, employment areas, public transport services and infrastructure on either side of Homebush Bay," Mr Wilson said.

"This includes bus and train services from the Rhodes transport interchange and ferries from the Sydney Olympic Park wharf.

"The bridge will allow residents to avoid a 12km round trip to get from one side of the bay to the other, considerably reducing their travel time and relieving pressure on local roads.

"The construction of this bridge will provide valuable local infrastructure given vacant government land at the northern end of Wentworth Point has been earmarked for renewal to provide additional housing, open space and employment areas."

The bridge, which will be made of precast concrete, will be built between the proposed Bridge Boulevard at Wentworth Point and Gauthorpe Street at Rhodes.

Mr Wilson said that, in approving the bridge's construction, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure had imposed a number of conditions to minimise environmental and social impacts.

"These include requirements to minimise the disturbance of sediments and soils during construction and to ensure any noise impacts are carefully monitored. Community submissions in response to the exhibition of the bridge proposal overwhelmingly supported it."

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