

Possession Location Changes & Working In Tunnels

This information has been prepared as a reminder to all Sydney Trains' employees, contractors, TfNSW and Operators of the requirements to fully comply with the Sydney Trains Network Rules and Procedures and all applicable possession procedures and requirements.

Effective date: 16 February 2026

To remain in Possession Notes until: 18 May 2026

Background

During a track possession, there was an incident involving smoke infiltration during welding works conducted within a tunnel portal at Town Hall Station. This incident caused concerns from passengers believing it was smoke coming from a train and prompted an operational response and investigation. Subsequent investigations confirmed the smoke originated from welding activities and not from any train fault. The train was delayed by 35 minutes, resulting in 7842 Lost Customer Minutes (LCM), and unnecessary deployment of emergency services resources. The incident related to a failure to inform the Possession Protection Officer (PPO) of changes to the approved work scope and worksite location within a Coordinated Worksite, including relocating works without appropriate approval or clear delineation of the worksite. In addition, appropriate mitigation controls were not implemented for activities generating smoke and fumes within a confined tunnel environment near customer areas. This issue could have led to major incidents.

Possession Access Requirements

All personnel wishing to work in possessions planned and managed by Asset Scheduling and Delivery Coordination (ASDC) must fully comply with the following requirements:

- When you register your scope delivery requirements in the Possession Access Coordination Tool (PACT) the scope working area (length of worksite KMs) must be kept to a minimum and the scope description must be brief and clearly inform the Network Access Manager (NAM) of what activities you will be undertaking when on site.
- Advise Possession Management Centre (PMC) immediately if you move outside your approved work location. Do not commence work until approval is confirmed by the PMC. The PMC staff will update PACT which will allow the PMC to monitor where each worksite is located if a train movement is required or an issue arises. This ensure that the PMC is aware of where each worksite is located and who to contact within the worksite.
- When planning to work in tunnels, apply additional controls and mitigation strategies for works that might generate smoke and fumes, such as welding, to avoid exposing the public to inconvenience and concern (As required by Engineering Manual MN-T-20222 C4-7.4). Additional controls that could be implemented include:
 - Notify station staff before starting any work that generates potential hazards, e.g. smoke or fumes.
 - Avoid peak passenger periods where possible.
 - Implement ventilation, containment, and continuous monitoring controls.

NOTE: For scopes involving welding works, the PACT scope question regarding dust or fumes must be ticked. This is a reminder to carry out additional measures and checks prior to commencing the work.

Will this scope cause dust or fumes in the City Underground Stations or Tunnels *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Confirmation

You have acknowledged that your scope will create dust or fumes and agree to identify and implement appropriate control measures for maintaining the air quality in the tunnel and station vicinity and will notify station staff prior to the possession

The Final Word

Track possessions often occur in live operating environments where customers may still be present and can be impacted by work activities. It is critical that appropriate mitigations are implemented to prevent undue impacts on customers and that all works and worksite locations conducted are effectively communicated to the PMC to enable effective risk management and coordination within ASDC's Business Rules and the Network Rules approved timeframes.

Network Access Managers and/or delegates are to ensure that this Notice is discussed at all pre-possession meetings and included as part of the distributed Possession Briefing Notes.

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Associate Director, Asset Scheduling and Delivery Coordination

Date: 12-02-2026