

Sustainability Initiative: Site-Won Fill

Rozelle Interchange
WestConnex



Background

How do you sustainably source tens of thousands of metres cubed of soil to backfill a construction site in Sydney's Inner West?

Through careful planning and coordination, the Rozelle Rail Yards Team has developed and implemented a strategy to reuse 86,000m³ of site-won fill from the Project's own backyard - Western Harbour Tunnel Southern and excavations within the Rozelle Rail Yards.

The strategy means significantly reducing truck movements on surrounding roads, and avoiding the environmental damage associated with mining virgin sand in remote locations.

It's a complex operation coordinated by multiple site supervisors on the Rozelle Interchange Project, who meticulously track material being excavated, and collaborate to identify suitable stockpile and backfill locations on the busy construction site.

A strict set of criteria must be met for spoil reuse. Area Engineers and the Environment Team meticulously manage material classifications and compliance testing to ensure the material is contaminant-free, and that a detailed record is kept of where all reused material is placed.

Benefits

Social

- Minimises truck movements on surrounding roads, enhancing road safety and amenity and reducing noise

Environment

- Avoids environmental damage associated with mining sand or other backfill materials
- Reuses material that would have been excavated anyway
- Reduces fuel consumption by minimising truck haulage requirements to and from the site
- Reduces the risk of contamination by sourcing material from a known source

Financial

- Less truck haulage reduces soil backfill transport costs
- In-house management reduces need to engage costly subcontractors
- No need to purchase backfill material from other sources

Programme

- Greater certainty over the composition of the material reduces risks of contamination and any associated remedial work



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