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Sydney Faces Traffic Turmoil as Pro-Palestinian March Closes Harbour Bridge

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Tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters will march across the Sydney Harbour Bridge on August 3, 2025, after the New South Wales Supreme Court rejected a police bid to block the event, causing major road closures and traffic disruptions.

On August 3, 2025, Sydney's iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge will close to traffic for over five hours, from 11:30 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m., as up to 50,000 pro-Palestinian protesters, organized by the Palestine Action Group (PAG), march to protest Israel's actions in Gaza. The New South Wales (NSW) Supreme Court, led by Justice Belinda Rigg,

dismissed a police application to prohibit the march, citing the right to peaceful assembly over commuter inconvenience. The decision has sparked concerns over significant disruptions to Sydney's transport network, with authorities warning of widespread congestion impacting over 40,000 motorists.

The march, starting at Lang Park at 1:00 p.m., will cross the bridge toward North Sydney, potentially ending near the United States Consulate. Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) Executive Director Craig Moran warned of severe delays on key routes, including the Western Distributor, Anzac Bridge, Eastern Distributor, Gore Hill Freeway, and Lane Cove Tunnel. Public transport will also be affected, with bus services terminating at North Sydney or Wynyard and the Sydney Metro closed for planned trackwork. Train services across the bridge will continue, but commuters are urged to avoid non-essential travel to the central business district (CBD).

NSW Police Acting Deputy Commissioner Peter McKenna, while accepting the court's ruling, stressed a robust police presence, including the Public Order and Riot Squad, to ensure safety. He warned that "swift action" would follow any antisocial behavior, with legal protections under the Summary Offences Act shielding marchers from charges like obstructing traffic. Organizer Josh Lees emphasized the bridge's symbolic power, stating, "It sends an urgent message about Gaza's humanitarian crisis." The march has drawn support from over 300 organizations, including the Australian Services Union and Jewish Council of Australia, though a counter-protest near the Harbour Tunnel has raised police concerns.

NSW Premier Chris Minns, who initially opposed the march, faced criticism from five NSW Labor MPs, including Stephen Lawrence, for overreach. The decision has fueled debate, with Opposition Leader Mark Speakman arguing it sets a "dangerous precedent" for future disruptions. Sydneysiders are advised to check [livetraffic.com](https://www.livetraffic.com) for updates and consider alternate routes like Gladesville Bridge to avoid the chaos.