



Smart Freeway Mitchell Southbound: Hester Avenue to Warwick Road

To enable construction of the new freeway ramp alignments, Principal Shared Path (PSP) and noise walls, the removal of vegetation in the road reserve adjacent to the Mitchell Freeway southbound lanes will commence from 10 January 2022.

The design for the project has maximised the retention of existing vegetation where possible and removal of vegetation in the road reserve is done reluctantly. The vegetation to be removed has been independently assessed and approval has been granted by State and Federal environment authorities.

100% of the removed vegetation will be reused in either a children's playground, the creation of black cockatoo hollows, to support local craftspeople or mulched and stored offsite. Mulched vegetation will be used during the landscaping process. Landscaping of areas that can support plants will occur once construction works are completed (see overleaf).

The extent of vegetation removal is not uniform along the freeway alignment. In some locations, where the available land to construct the new infrastructure is narrow, or constrained by services, all of the existing vegetation will be removed. In other locations, larger areas of vegetation will be retained because there is adequate land available to build the infrastructure.

Prior to the removal of vegetation, temporary fencing will be installed to separate the project works from the community, to ensure safety from machinery and equipment. Dust screening will also be placed on the fencing to assist in the management of dust.

This work will take place during the day and will involve the use of chainsaws and mulching equipment. While temporary traffic management may be necessary on local streets, there will be no closures of local roads to complete these works. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused by the works.

For further information on the project's approach to managing the environment, please download the Environmental Management Fact Sheet from the project's [webpage](#).

Principal Shared Path

The 7.6km long Principal Shared Path (PSP) will be built adjacent to the Mitchell Freeway southbound lanes, between Ocean Reef Road and Warwick Train Station. The 4-metre wide PSP will be constructed to separate path users from vehicles, creating a safer environment for all. You can read our PSP [Fact Sheet](#) on the webpage for further information.

Noise walls

Road traffic noise is managed under State Planning Policy 5.4 "Road and Rail Transport Noise" (SPP 5.4). In line with the policy, independent acoustic experts were engaged to undertake noise monitoring and assessments within the project boundary, at selected locations within close proximity of works. These assessments have been completed and utilised to inform the designs for the noise walls, which have been finalised.

Noise wall heights between Ocean Reef Road and Warwick Train Station will be between 2.7 metres and 5.0 metres high, depending on their location. The noise walls will be a "panel and post" structure, similar to those located in various sections along the freeway.

Directly impacted property owners have been, and will continue to be, consulted with. You can read the [Noise Mitigation Fact Sheet](#) on the webpage for further information.

Landscaping

The project is finalising a comprehensive re-vegetation and landscaping plan to be undertaken by specialised landscaping contractors. Once finalised, the plan will be available on the project webpage.

Seed collection has been undertaken along the vegetation alignment and stored for re-use during the landscaping program. The planting will comprise a mix of seeds and tubestock, to be planted in the cooler months closer to project completion, to ensure they adapt to the natural conditions and thrive.

Appropriate design treatments, including vegetation species selection and placement of trees, are determined on a location-by-location basis in response to local conditions. The project has considered many important factors in preparing the revegetation plan, particularly along the PSP which includes, but is not limited to:

- clear sightlines to ensure visibility for safe driving and the safety of path users
- location of services e.g. water, sewerage, gas pipes and telecoms
- tree trunk setback from the roadway to minimise potential hazards for motorists
- likely impact of tree roots on structures, paths and the roadway formation
- width of the road reserve, available space for vegetation and tree planting, and maintenance accessibility
- trees dropping branches/ leaves/ debris onto roads and paths that pose safety risks

Community Engagement

The project continues to work with key stakeholders to strike a balance between complex site constraints including available land, sloping freeway verges, underground services, access and maintenance of the PSP; accessibility requirements in the design of the PSP, safety and efficiencies for the motoring public and path users; community needs, aesthetics and preferences.

Residents adjacent to the vegetation removal sites, and on the road reserve boundary, have been contacted by the project to explain what will occur in proximity to their property. Residents adjacent to a noise wall or with a noise wall being built on their boundary have also been contacted by the project. This liaison will continue.

Additional communications are being prepared for the community, including location-specific information which will be distributed to residents directly impacted in those locations, prior to the commencement of vegetation clearing near their property.

In addition to the ongoing engagement with the community, the project has engaged with the City of Joondalup to receive their feedback on design proposals and completed a series of meetings with community representatives on the Community Reference Group. The most recent meeting summary from the Community Reference Group can be viewed on the project's [webpage](#).

Further information

To stay up to date with the project, subscribe to email notifications via our project webpage at: <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/smart-freeways> or phone: 138 138 / email: enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au