

New Fitzroy River Bridge Project

Preparing to launch in Fitzroy Crossing

The New Fitzroy River Bridge Project continues to make good progress, despite unseasonal heavy rainfall in late June, which required both the project's construction causeway and the temporary public crossings to close.

Construction of the final launch pad foundations and pedestals are now complete. The steel bridge beams have started to arrive in Fitzroy Crossing and regular deliveries will continue over the coming months. Once on site, the beams will be assembled, and the launch nose will be attached in preparation for the bridge launch.

The bridge will launch from the western side of the river starting in early September. The bridge will be pushed 36 metres approximately every 8 days until it reaches the other side of the river in early November.

Works will then be undertaken to tie-in the road to the bridge, followed by traffic barrier installation, sealing, asphaltting, lighting and line marking.

Pier construction on the riverbed

With piling now complete, construction of the bridge piers is progressing well.

The new bridge has seven piers with each one made up of a concrete pile cap and four concrete pier shells, which are filled with concrete and steel reinforcement on site.

Pouring of pile caps began mid-July and will finish at the end of August. This work is being completed overnight during the coolest time of the day to reduce heat stress to the concrete as it is solidifying. There may be some noise from machinery while night works take place, however this will be kept to a minimum wherever possible.

We are on track to complete the substructure concrete build (piers and pile caps) by the end of August, allowing the bridge deck launch to commence.



Above: Installation of the concrete pier shells underway

Removal of two-lane crossing

The temporary two-lane low-level crossing, currently open to all vehicles adjacent to the new Fitzroy River Bridge, will be removed in mid-September with all traffic diverted onto the old low-level crossing.

The old low-level causeway is being upgraded to cater for all vehicles including road trains and oversized vehicles and will remain open until the river levels rise. Once water levels rise and the river is navigable, the barge ferry service will be reinstated to transport passengers and light vehicles.

The two-lane crossing needs to be removed before the wet season to remove the risk of the steel casings being washed into and damaging the new bridge. It will also allow embankment protection works to be undertaken on the riverbank.

Temporary road closures

During the next few months, works will be undertaken to upgrade roads and the old low-level crossing in Fitzroy Crossing before the wet season.

Yurabi Road, which connects to the old level crossing, has already been closed, but residents and service vehicles continue to have access to properties.

Students launch into bridge mural

In late July, 10 talented art students from Fitzroy Valley District High School visited the worksite to paint a mural on the launch nose for the new bridge. The students worked over two days to create the seven-metre-long artwork.

The mural features elements from the students' own artwork to tell the story of the Fitzroy Valley; including the contrast between the harsh wet and dry seasons, the many communities that call the Fitzroy Valley home and the Fitzroy River's rich biodiversity.

With the mural complete, the launch nose can be temporarily attached to the front of the bridge. It will then guide the bridge segments across the top of the piers, as they're pushed across the river to the other side.



Visit from Yiramalay Studio School

Last month, approximately 30 students and teachers joined us from Yiramalay Studio School in Wunaamin Miliwundi Ranges to take a look at the site. The tour group comprised local students and visiting students from Yiramalay's sister school, Wesley College in Melbourne. The students were taken to different parts of the worksite to learn about how the bridge is being built and the importance of workplace safety.

Right: *Yiramalay students walking through site.*



Thinking caps and hard hats on



Students at Fitzroy Valley District High School recently took part in a Careers Day showcasing the many different roles available in construction. Students were able to try their hand at welding, surveying and operating machinery.

The Careers Day kicked off a year-long program between the school and the bridge project. As part of this program, keen students will be able to participate in workplace learning and shadow workers on the job.

Left: *Welding demonstration at the Careers Day.*

Getting local business ideas off the ground

In early August, Kris Young from Broome-based Many Rivers visited Fitzroy Crossing to offer support to local residents who were interested in starting or further developing their own business. During the one-on-one sessions, Kris provided support and advice on implementing and growing a business idea.

Kris will continue to visit Fitzroy Crossing to help individuals grow their businesses. People who are yet to meet Kris, are welcome to contact him directly on 0477 373 908, to organise a time to meet when he is next in town.

The New Fitzroy River Bridge project is committed to providing business and sub-contracting opportunities for Aboriginal businesses. Last month alone, the project worked with 12 Aboriginal-owned businesses including 9 local businesses from the Fitzroy Valley.

Right: *Local resident Marty meeting with Kris from Many Rivers.*



Sizzling community BBQ

In mid-July, members of the project attended a community BBQ held in town. The event was a great opportunity to get together with everyone in the community and celebrate the recovery progress achieved so far.

Community members welcomed the opportunity to chat to our team and take a look at some of the heavy-duty machinery and construction parts up close.

Right: Local children checking out a dump truck.



How to get involved

There are still opportunities to become a worker or subcontractor on the New Fitzroy River Bridge Project. If you are looking for work or have a business, please visit Sean/Roger in the Old Café, or call 0428 805 766.

For more information about the project:

- Chat to the team in the Old Café in Fitzroy Crossing
- Visit the Main Roads project page: mainroads.wa.gov.au/new-fitzroy-river-bridge,
- Email enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au or
- Call 138 138.