

Albany Ring Road

Project motors past the halfway stage



Earthworks at the Albany Ring Road, Link Road and South Coast Highway interchange (looking south towards South Coast Highway)

Construction of the Albany Ring Road has turned for home with the project over 50 per cent complete.

The new Albany Highway and Menang Drive interchange continues to function well, while major earthworks along the southern part of the alignment are significantly changing the landscape. In addition to the physical changes brought about by construction, the largest road infrastructure investment in the Great Southern Region is providing opportunities for local suppliers and contractors and will leave behind several positive legacies for the community.

Construction update

Site activity resumed in early January, with works taking place along the entirety of the alignment between Lancaster Road and Princess Royal Drive. With conditions now ideal for road construction, our contractor, Decmil, will make the most of the dry weather by focusing on cut-to-fill operations and constructing traffic management solutions for the winter bridgeworks.

The primary focus of our works will remain at the South Coast Highway and Hanrahan Road / Frenchman Bay Road interchange sites. A minor road realignment is



Bridge footing installation at Hanrahan Road

now in place at South Coast Highway to allow a section of the highway to be excavated to enable construction of the new bridge.

Road users and visitors to the area will also notice the substantial embankments starting to take shape adjacent to Frenchman Bay Road and Hanrahan Road. Construction of footings for the bridge are well underway and will be followed by columns, piers and Mechanically Stabilised Earth (MSE) walls.

Lookahead to key milestones

- South Coast Highway temporary realignment and excavation – late January 2023 onwards
- South Coast Highway bridge construction – March 2023 onwards
- Albany Ring Road underpass opening and permanent Lancaster Road road closure – March 2023
- Hanrahan Road / Frenchman Bay Road bridge pier installation – September 2023

Dust management

During warm, dry weather, the impact of dust from the site works is a major consideration. Our contractor, Decmil, will regularly monitor environmental factors

that can impact on dust levels such as forecasted strong winds and will conduct regular surveillance of dust levels around the construction works.

Where necessary, Decmil will implement controls and modify construction activities to reduce the likelihood of generating dust.

Current control measures include:

- Seven water carts active across the site.
- Sealing of public roads to eliminate traffic on gravel surfaces.
- Ongoing sweeping of sealed roads where necessary to eliminate dust from spillage.
- The Frenchman Bay Road bridge embankment has been capped with orange plastic-like clay to minimise dust generation.
- Ongoing monitoring of air quality in four locations

Local investment and Aboriginal participation update

The Albany Ring Road project continues to deliver significant economic benefits and opportunities to local contractors and suppliers. The project has successfully sourced various services from the local economy, including the supply of building materials, plant and equipment hire, traffic control, fencing and arborist advice.

At the end of November 2022, just under \$28 million had been spent on local businesses; and of this figure, over \$4 million had been expended on Aboriginal suppliers.

In addition, 24 per cent of the hours worked on the project is attributable to Aboriginal businesses.



Abutment footing preparation at the Hanrahan Road / Frenchman Bay Road bridge site

In the community

The project team continues to liaise extensively with local residents, road users and other interested stakeholders across the City of Albany. At the recent Albany Agricultural Show, we spoke with in excess of 450 people over two days.

Key areas of interest included changes to local journeys upon completion of the new interchanges, as well as provisions within the project for local cyclists. Pleasingly, there was strong understanding and appreciation of the local investment in Albany, as well as some of the safety benefits the project will provide by taking heavy vehicles off existing routes.

Decmil, also continues to strengthen its relationships in the area through its ongoing partnerships with local

societies and sporting teams. This includes a donation to the Albany RSL to assist with the 2023 ANZAC Day commemorations in Albany. The project appreciates the importance of the ANZAC Day services to Albany and understands the critical role that Albany played during wartime.



Strong interest in the project at the Albany Agricultural Show

Environmental Reference Group – creating lasting environmental outcomes

At the outset of the Albany Ring Road project, an Environmental Reference Group (ERG) was formed, comprising representatives from various local natural resource management bodies and catchment groups.

The forum has met periodically throughout construction and serves as a sounding board, providing guidance to the project team on matters such as local flora and fauna connectivity.

Ongoing, meaningful collaboration with passionate local experts has shaped the project in a positive way. Outcomes of ERG engagement to-date have included:

- Changes to the revegetation mix to focus on local provenance
- Identification of opportunities for planting outside the immediate road reserve
- Incorporation of five possum bridges in the southern part of the alignment, with installation planned to begin later this year

- Identification of training and planting opportunities

As the project moves into 2023, we will continue to liaise with the ERG to secure input into the project's Urban Landscape Design Plan, which will shape the extensive revegetation program planned between Lancaster Road and Princess Royal Drive following construction.

Upon completion of the Albany Ring Road project, we envisage the ERG will continue to be called upon by our Great Southern regional team as an invaluable source of local knowledge to inform their various projects and initiatives.

We thank all ERG participants for giving up their time to help shape this important project.

Providing the missing link in a local cycling connection

Upon completion, the Albany Ring Road will provide a dedicated Shared Path linking Hanrahan Road with Frenchman Bay Road, removing the requirement for cyclists to interact with heavy traffic and the railway line.

To maximise the benefits of this connection, the project team, together with the City of Albany are progressing plans to construct an additional Shared Path to connect the existing path on Carlisle Street to the new infrastructure on Hanrahan Road.

The additional connection will create a continuous, attractive cycle route from the Princess Royal Sailing Club right through to the Albany City Centre.

Current activity includes design and undertaking environmental surveys with a view to commencing construction in early 2024.



Earthworks at the Hanrahan Road / Frenchman Bay Road interchange site (looking north towards Hanrahan Road)