Albany Ring Road and Albany Highway Interchange taking shape

Scrapers working through the Albany Ring Road alignment alignment

# Construction of the first phase of the $175million Albany Ring Road has resumed following the Christmas and New Year break.

# Key activities undertaken in December included:

* Vegetation clearing and ground preparation on the eastern side of Albany Highway;
* Topsoil stripping along the construction footprint; and,
* Shaping and compacting of the new road alignment.

More major earthmoving equipment will arrive on site in the coming weeks and progress will be accelerated.

# Services relocations

In late January, power, water, sewerage and telecommunications services will be relocated on both sides of Albany Highway. This follows approval of our Final designs by the respective service providers.

Whilst the only visual evidence of this work will be the removal of overhead power lines around the existing Albany Highway and Menang Drive intersection, moving the services is a key project milestone, essential to the timely delivery of the broader works.

# Bridge abutment construction

# The ground level on the western side of Albany Highway is much lower than the eastern side. As a result, this area will see significant changes in the coming weeks as earthworks for the bridge abutments take place. Works will comprise delivery and compaction of fill material to form a stable base.

This activity will prepare the site for the pouring of concrete footings for the bridge over Albany Highway in February 2021.

# What to expect as a road user

Speed restrictions have been reinstated in the vicinity of Albany Highway, Menang Drive and Link Road for the safety of both road users and workers.

As re-routing of services commences there will be times when it is unavoidable for traffic flow to be interrupted when construction and utility service workers are working on or close to the road.

What to expect as a local resident

The shape of the landscape to the west of Albany Highway will change significantly as earthworks for the bridge abutments move forward.

To the east of the interchange, there will be clearing of vegetation along the existing Albany Highway and shaping of earth on the south side of Menang Drive will become evident.

# Vegetation clearing

All vegetation clearing is carried out under a clearing permit for the Albany Ring Road. Each time clearing is required, there are strict controls of the area to be cleared and the vegetation is inspected for evidence of specific species such as the Western Ringtail Possum and Black Cockatoos.

All clearing is undertaken slowly to allow animals to move into surrounding bushland and out of the way of the machinery whilst a dedicated and licensed fauna spotter is present.

Clearing and disposal of vegetation that contains weeds or dieback is also handled separately to healthy vegetation. This ensures that weeds or dieback are not inadvertently spread.

# Kangaroo management update

Gradual relocation of the kangaroos from the paddock on the western side of Albany Highway has been largely successful with approximate numbers diminishing from 300 to 80.

The migration of the kangaroos from the immediate work area has been undertaken with encouragement for the kangaroos of food and water further along the road alignment.

Main Roads continues to liaise closely with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions regarding the ongoing management of this matter.

# Further information

Project information is available at www. mainroads.wa.gov.au/projects by emailing enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au or phoning 138 138. You can also register for project updates by heading to our project page and subscribing for email updates.