

Swan River Crossings Project

Service Relocation Works

The Fremantle Traffic Bridge houses telecommunications, gas, and water services that need to be removed and relocated. Development Approval for service relocation works was granted in October 2022.

Relocation of telecommunication and water lines will be done using a Horizontal Directional Drill to drill under the riverbed and connect a pipeline to both sides of the river. The first drill rig for telecommunications is expected to arrive in late April. These works will continue into the second half of 2024. Read our [Horizontal Directional Drilling \(HDD\) Fact Sheet](#) to find out more information about the drilling process.

Geotechnical Investigations

Geotechnical drilling investigations are complete and have provided us with more information about riverbed conditions for the piling process for the new bridge. Small diameter boreholes were drilled approximately 70 metres below the riverbed to allow samples to be taken and tested to assist with pylon design.



Figure 1: In-river ground sample



Figure 2: On-land ground sample

Curious River Users

Dolphins are a much-loved sight in the Swan River and our trained Marine Mammal Observers (MMO) kept a close eye out for them during the drilling works. Our observers reported multiple sightings of curious dolphins, and alerted the team if any were too close to the works to ensure work was stopped until dolphins had moved a safe distance away.



Figure 1: Dolphin sighting near the Geotechnical Drilling barge.

Bus Stop Relocation

We have temporarily relocated two bus stops along Queen Victoria Street, North Fremantle to facilitate service relocation works. This has allowed continued access for bus users. We appreciate the cooperation of the community.

Site Preparation

We've finished preparing areas on the north and south ends of the bridge so that service relocation activities can start. A range of initiatives were used to reduce tree removal and minimise vegetation impacts.

- Initially, two drills were to be placed in the area adjacent to Beach Street for drilling works. These works have been staged, using one drill at a time, which has resulted in fewer trees and less vegetation being removed.
- Site visits by the City of Fremantle, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and arborists to assess the team's proposed clearing, and to identify any further opportunities to retain trees.
- An arborist on site to manage clearing.

Removing the weeds and non-native species provides an opportunity in future to restore the natural environment with local native species and vegetation.

Development Approval

A Development Application to replace the Fremantle Traffic Bridge was advertised for public comment from 14 December 2023 to 1 February 2024 by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH). The application is being assessed by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC), including feedback from the community, key stakeholders, local government and state agencies. Where possible, the Fremantle Bridges Alliance is undertaking activities to continue developing elements of the project.

Further Information

For enquiries, please phone 138 138, email enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au or click [here](#) to learn more about the project.

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