



Tonkin Highway Extension and Thomas Road Upgrade



Environmental Management

The \$1 billion Tonkin Highway Extension and Thomas Road Upgrade Project is one of the largest infrastructure investments in Perth's south-east. Jointly funded by the Australian and Western Australian Governments, the project will deliver a safer, more efficient, and better connected transport network for our growing state.

Building major infrastructure also comes with environmental responsibilities — and we're committed to delivering this project with the highest standards of safety, sustainability, and community care.

Vegetation clearing and rehabilitation

To build the required infrastructure, vegetation clearing is required. We understand this can be a concern, and

we want to reassure you that every step is being taken to manage this process responsibly.

Conditional environmental approvals have been obtained for the project under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC).

The project will only clear vegetation that is required to be removed. Where a ground area is disturbed but not finished with a sealed surface, or within a maintenance zone, rehabilitation works will be undertaken,

Rehabilitation will include both engineered hard surfaces (eg. rock-pitching), and revegetation using native species. The rehabilitation design for the project

is currently being prepared to ensure opportunities for revegetation are maximised.

Several fauna crossings will be installed across the project, for habitat connectivity.

Designing with the environment in mind

The project has prioritised retaining existing vegetation wherever possible. Several design optimisations have already reduced the clearing footprint, including:

- Realigning project features to reduce impact zones where possible to retain vegetation
- Preserving vegetation at basin sites
- Adjusting shared paths
- Retaining significant trees close to earthwork edges where safe to do so.

For example, to effectively reduce the number of impacted threatened species *Morelotia australiensis* and other threatened ecological communities, we were able to shift the Mundijong Road roundabout north.

We have also five Aboriginal Heritage sites, and have an approval under Section 18 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 to ensure respectful management, including salvaging.

Flora and fauna management

Environmental consultants were engaged during the planning stage to complete surveys for the Project area. This included a detailed flora and vegetation assessment and a Black Cockatoo and fauna habitat assessment, including inspection of mature trees to record habitat and breeding trees suitable for use by Black Cockatoo species.

Ongoing surveys are helping monitor threatened species and manage habitats responsibly. During clearing, qualified fauna handlers will be onsite to safely relocate any animals found in the work area.

As part of our commitment to minimising impacts, we're exploring positive initiatives during early works, including:

- Reusing native vegetation (e.g. banksia cones and eucalyptus branches) to support local wildlife, in collaboration with Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre.
- Grass tree salvage and replanting.
- Seed collection of *Morelotia australiensis* by Kings Park Botanical Gardens/Department of

Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

Environmental Working Group

The Tonkin Extension Alliance recently held its first Environmental Working Group (EWG) meeting with key stakeholders from the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.

This group plays an important role in fostering open collaboration throughout the project, including:

- Sharing local environmental context
- Offer feedback during project design and delivery
- Raise and discuss environmental concerns and community perspectives.



First Environmental Working Group

Thank you to our representatives for their contributions and we look forward to working closely with the group to ensure environmentally responsible outcomes for the Project.

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