

Albany Ring Road Project



Above: Cutting the ribbon on the Great Southern Region's largest ever infrastructure project

Ring Road open and functioning well; bridge artwork installation to commence in late 2024

The Albany Ring Road officially opened to traffic on Sunday 19 May. This followed an opening ceremony attended by Deputy Premier Hon Rita Saffioti, Senator for Western Australia Varun Ghosh as well as local community and industry representatives and school students.

The completed ring road has been named Menang Drive, in recognition of the Menang Noongar people, the area's Traditional Owners and inhabitants of the region for more than 50,000 years.

The ring road is the biggest road project ever undertaken in the Great Southern region – delivering a free-flowing, 11-kilometre connection between the original section of Menang Drive east of Albany Highway and Princess Royal Drive, including three grade-separated interchanges at Albany Highway, South Coast Highway and Frenchman Bay Road.

The project has also significantly improved the local cycling network, including a new shared path on the Frenchman Bay Road bridge, which links the Torndirrup Peninsula with the existing network north of the freight rail line.

The ring road, which was delivered on time and within budget, is diverting heavy vehicles around Albany, improving freight efficiency and underpinning the long-term economic viability of Albany Port.

Supporting jobs and investment in our Great Southern Region

As well as providing a critical road safety and freight efficiency upgrade, the Albany Ring Road project has been a gamechanger for contractors and suppliers in the Great Southern Region.

The project has invested approximately **\$54 million** in Great Southern businesses, supporting local jobs and contracting opportunities.

\$6.4 million has been spent on Aboriginal businesses and suppliers, while 10.5% of the construction workforce hours have been completed by local First Nations people.



Above: New interchange connecting Menang Drive, Hanrahan Road and Frenchman Bay Road



Above: New interchange connecting Menang Drive and South Coast Highway

Revegetation program to begin in coming months

With major construction now complete, our attention turns to landscaping and revegetating the site. Areas cleared to accommodate the ring road will be replanted using flora species native to the Great Southern Region. The choice of vegetation has also been informed by its habitat and foraging potential, hydrological features, and climatic conditions. We thank the project's Environmental Reference Group (ERG) for its input in informing our selection of species.

Planting will comprise primarily of tube stock. It should be noted that while tube stock plants appear small when first planted, their

success rate can often be higher than more established specimens. Revegetation of the area around the Menang Drive and Albany Highway interchange began in 2022 and there is already good coverage around most of the site.

Providing safe crossing points for native fauna

Following consultation with the project's Environmental Reference Group, locations for four rope crossings for possums were identified along the alignment, along with a fifth crossing point just east of the project on Carlisle Street. With the project now completed, the installation of the poles and rope bridges will take place over winter.



Above: Western Ringtail Possum



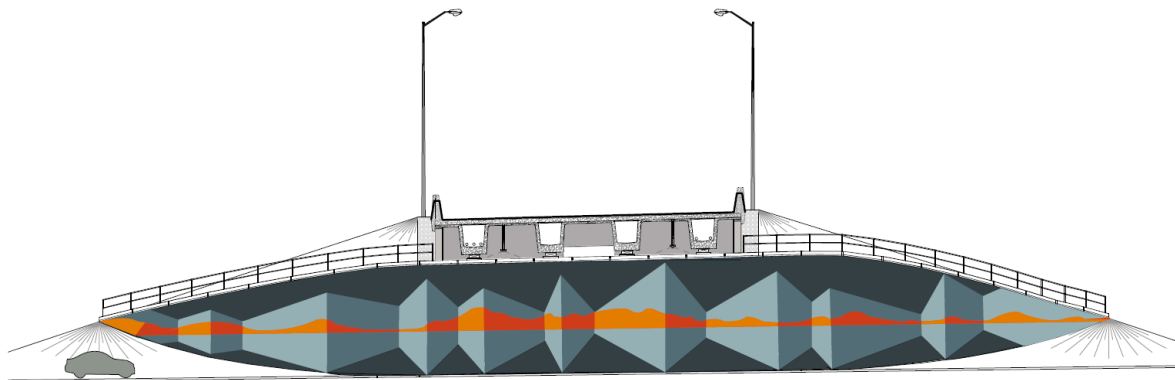
Above: Revegetation site at Menang Drive and Albany Highway Interchange

Local bridge artwork inspired by local landscapes

The appearance of each of the three bridges along Menang Drive, at Albany Highway, South Coast Highway and Frenchman Bay Road, will change significantly in the coming months following the installation of artworks prepared by Great Southern artists Nikki Green and Glenn Hegedus.

Nikki Green's artworks at the Albany Highway and South Coast Highway bridge sites draw inspiration from the angles and tones of the surrounding landscape, including the Stirling Ranges, the Porongurups and King George Sound. Together they form a striking gateway into the city. Nikki's concept designs are shown in Figures 1-4 below.

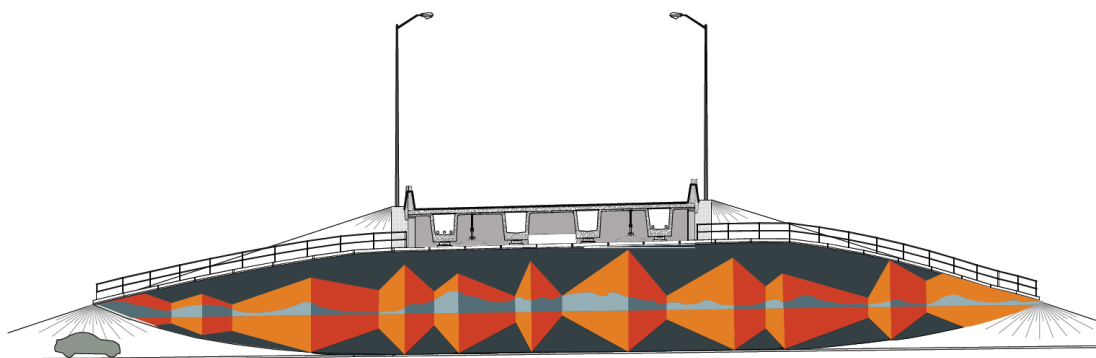
FIG 1: ALBANY HIGHWAY BRIDGE – EASTERN ABUTMENT



Colour Key:

■	B64 Charcoal
■	B53 Dark Grey Blue
■	B52 Light Grey Blue
■	R12 Scarlet
■	X12 Pumpkin

FIG 2: ALBANY HIGHWAY BRIDGE – WESTERN ABUTMENT



Colour Key :

■	B64 Charcoal
■	B53 Dark Grey Blue
■	B52 Light Grey Blue
■	R12 Scarlet
■	X12 Pumpkin

FIG 3: SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY BRIDGE – EASTERN ABUTMENT

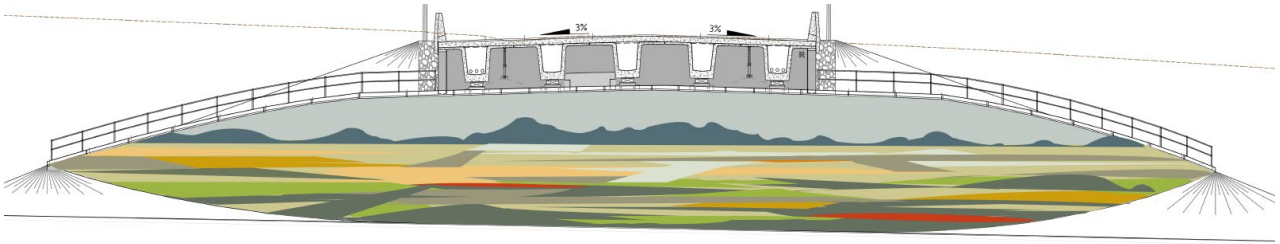
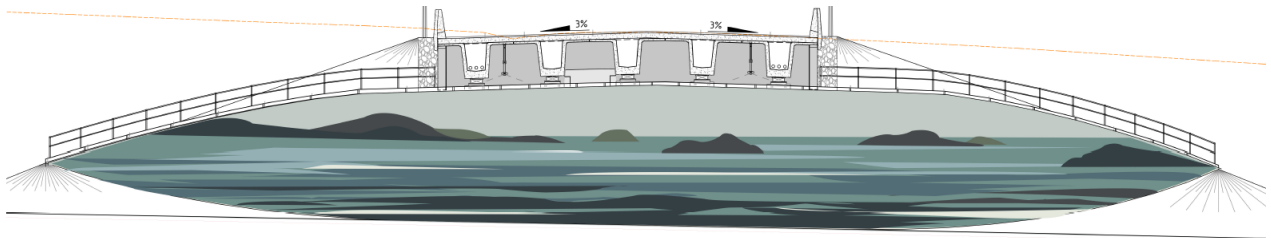


FIG 4: SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY BRIDGE - WESTERN ABUTMENT



Glenn Hedegus’ artwork at Frenchman Bay Road takes its cue from the surrounding rock formations and the transitions in the landscape between the granite, land and sandy edges of Princess Royal Harbour. Glenn’s concept designs are included in Figures 5-6 below.

FIG 5: HANRAHAN ROAD / FRENCHMAN BAY ROAD BRIDGE – NORTHERN ABUTMENT

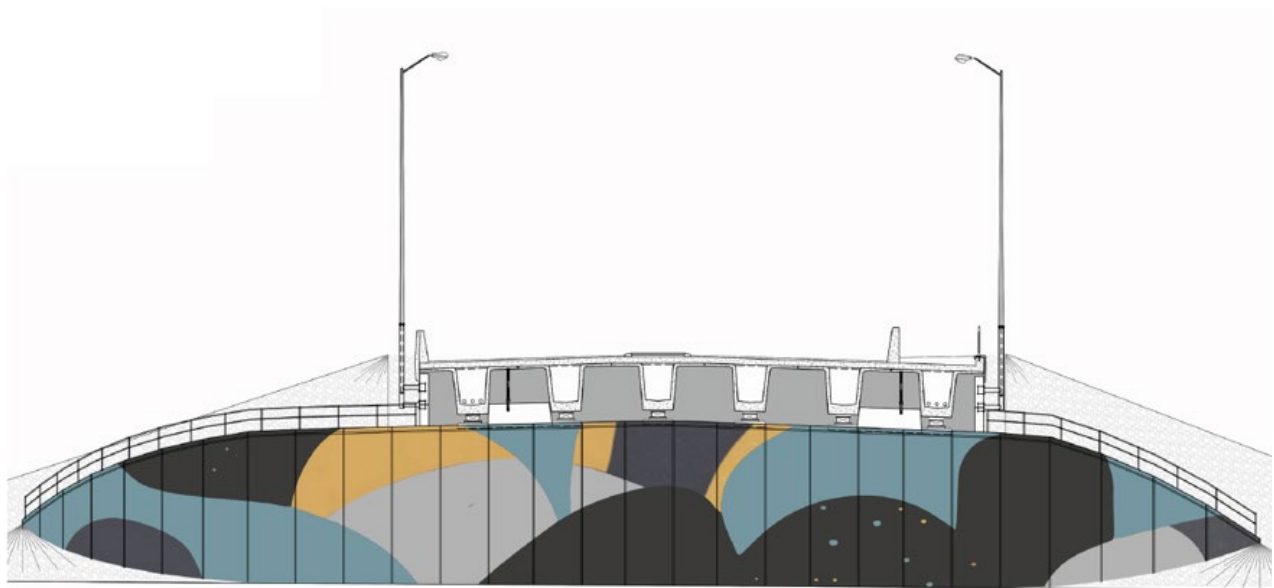
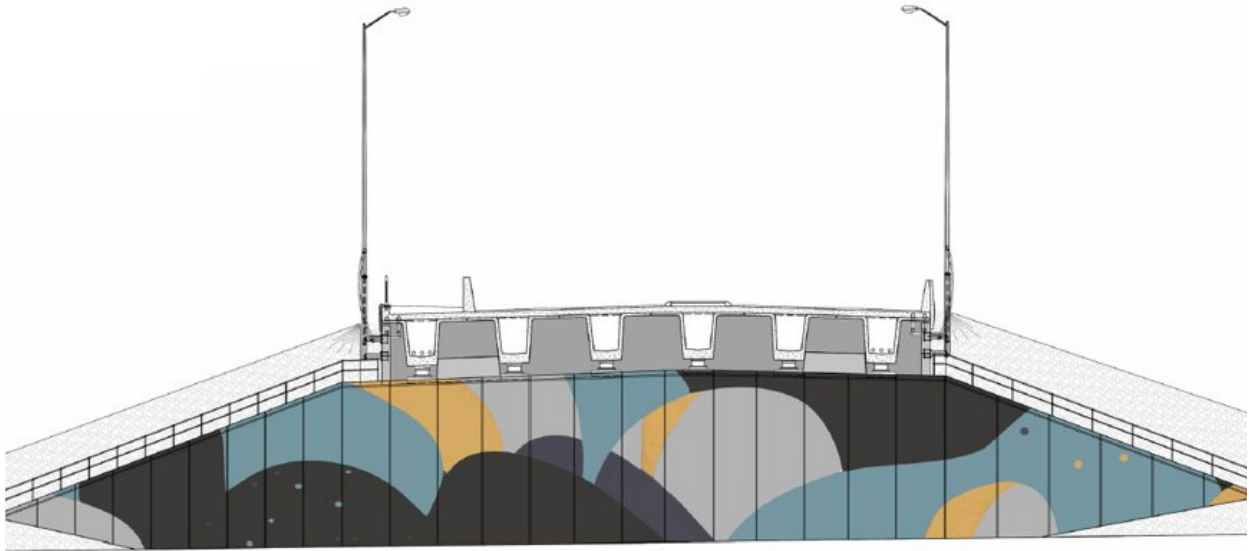


FIG 6: HANRAHAN ROAD / FRENCHMAN BAY ROAD BRIDGE – SOUTHERN ABUTMENT



Painting activity at the bridge sites is expected to begin later in the year. During these times, there is likely to be some intermittent traffic management and speed reductions in the affected areas in order to provide a safe working environment for the painting crew.