



# Swan River Crossings - Fremantle Traffic Bridge

## Managing the Environment

The Swan River Crossings Project will replace the existing Fremantle Traffic Bridge, creating a striking gateway to Fremantle (Walyalup). The new bridge will:

- Be built on the existing traffic bridge alignment.
- Maintain two traffic lanes in each direction.
- Improve navigational safety for boats, kayaks, and other river users.
- Have new, wider, and safer paths (up to four metres wide) on both sides of the new bridge to connect into existing paths for people walking and riding.

We are undertaking planning to minimise environmental impacts during both construction and the removal of the existing bridge. This includes working closely with Regulators.

We will comply with all applicable environmental laws, approvals, policies, and other legal requirements. The project provides the opportunity to implement best practice initiatives to protect water quality, flora and fauna, soil resources, and Aboriginal and European heritage. The nature of site activities and the sensitivity of the area will determine how the surrounding environment is managed. To achieve this, the project team will implement the following measures:

### In the river

- We have developed bridge construction methods to minimise sediment disturbance and riverbed impacts. For example, piles will be hollow, which will allow soil to enter the pile, rather than be pushed aside.
- To minimise impacts to marine fauna from underwater noise, trained Marine Mammal Observers (MMO) will be on site during piling activities and extensive observation and 'shut-down zones' will be established, where piling will stop immediately if marine mammals approach the exclusion zone. Soft-start piling will also be used, which involves gradually increasing the piling energy, alerting marine mammals to the activity before noise levels reach their peak.
- Water quality will be monitored throughout construction, including river water testing and visual monitoring for any sediment plumes.
- Machinery used over the water will have in-built control measures to mitigate the risk of hazardous chemicals reaching the river in the event of equipment failure or spills. An on-site emergency spill response team will be formed for the project.

The Marine Mammal Observers (MMO) will contribute to the Dolphin Watch Program. This program is an important research and education project that aims to provide a better understanding of dolphin ecology, and our own marine and estuarine environments. More information about the program can be found [here](#).



## On the land

Qualified arborists and ecologists were engaged to provide vital information that has been incorporated into design and site layout considerations to minimise vegetation disturbance. Several detailed flora and fauna surveys have been completed across the project area, confirming that:

- Beach Street Reserve has previously been cleared.
- Current vegetation consists of planted gardens and associated regrowth.
- At least 49 weed or non-native species, including one Weed of National Significance (WoNS), are in the Reserve.

Removing the weeds and non-native species provides an opportunity to restore the natural environment with local native species and vegetation that was originally present in the riverine and Fremantle environment many years ago.

Any trees or vegetation removed will be mulched and stored for re-use in permanent landscaping.

- A water-sensitive public realm and landscaping with drought-tolerant native species is being designed.
- Stockpiles will be located away from the river edge and stormwater drains.
- Soil will be checked for contamination and carefully treated if re-using.
- Maintaining protection zones around protected vegetation areas during construction works.

## Aboriginal and European heritage

Cultural protocols have been implemented for the project to manage the area that has been an important place and crossing point for thousands of years. The project's Whadjuk Elders Advisory Group advised that a new bridge with fewer piers achieves an important heritage and environmental outcome as minimising impacts to the riverbed improves the flow and movement of song lines through the area. See our [Heritage Fact Sheet](#) for more details about the significance of the crossing point.

## Further information

For enquiries, please phone 138 138, email [enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au) or click [here](#) to learn more about the project. Click [here](#) to subscribe for future project updates.

