

Tonkin Highway Extension and Thomas Road Upgrade



Tonkin Highway is being extended from Thomas Road to South Western Highway south-east of Mundijong. The \$755 million project is jointly funded by the Australian (\$604 million) and Western Australian (\$151 million) Governments. \$290 million is also allocated to upgrade Thomas Road from Tonkin Highway to South Western Highway, (\$145 million each by the Australian and the Western Australian Governments), bringing the total funding commitment to \$1.045 billion.

Procurement for delivery contractors

Procurement has commenced for the southern extension of Tonkin Highway to South Western Highway and upgrade of Thomas Road, with an Expression of Interest released for delivery contractors.

The procurement process is scheduled to be finalised during 2024. Following contract award, construction will commence.

Project development work is nearing completion for the project. Highlights include:

- Concept design finalisation
- Geotechnical investigations and pavement investigations
- Environment and heritage impact assessments, surveys and approvals
- Traffic modelling

- Urban Landscape Design Framework updates
- Heritage interpretation strategy
- Asset Responsibility Plans
- Visual screening
- Land schedule requirements and acquisition dealings

A fly-through visualisation video has been produced to show an artistic view of what the Tonkin Highway Extension and Thomas Road Upgrade will look like once complete.

You can view the video on the Main Roads YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/@MainRoadsWesternAus/videos>

Community feedback on concept design

Community information sessions were held on 9 and 12 August 2023 to give local residents and businesses an opportunity to view project designs in detail, understand local and access road changes, view a project video and ask the project team questions.

We spoke with more than 300 people at the information sessions!

An online survey was undertaken to provide a further opportunity to view the material and give the community the chance to have their say from 9 August to 14 September 2023.

We received 312 responses to the online survey.

Thank you to those who attended an information session and completed the online survey. Your feedback is being used to further shape the project's development and delivery, and inform the project team on local issues and opportunities as the concept design is further progressed.

What we heard

The top perceived benefits of the projects were:

- Less congestion on local roads
- Travel time savings
- Increased road safety and reduced risk of crashes
- Upgrade of intersections (bridges, roundabouts, traffic lights)

The most important community issues were:

- Noise changes once the project is complete (e.g. noise impact on adjacent residents)
- Local access to residential areas and/or retail, education and health facilities
- Permanent changes to local road access
- Management of road impacts during construction (e.g. traffic management, access, local road changes)

Respondents were mostly (multiple answers could be selected):

- Residents – 69%
- Road users – 66%
- Landowners – 51%
- Business owners, students, pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders also responded.

73% of respondents anticipate they will regularly travel on the highway (at least once a week).

The preferred methods of communication were:

- Email
- Website
- Social Media
- Newsletters in letterbox

83.5%

of respondents supported the Tonkin Highway Extension project.

Key themes and questions

Has the scope of works been confirmed? Detailed scope explanations for both projects can be viewed on the Main Roads website. They haven't changed since our last newsletter.

When is construction starting? Procurement for a delivery contractor is scheduled to be finalised during 2024. Following contract award, construction will commence.

How long will it take to build? Approximately three years.

The visualisation video was very helpful in understanding the scope, can I view it online? It has been uploaded to the Main Roads website.

Will local access and connectivity change? A detailed Access and Connectivity Map with the proposed changes is available on the Main Roads website.

What noise mitigations are planned for nearby residents? Noise monitoring and modelling has been undertaken and will be refined once the project enters detailed design stage. Preliminary mitigations proposed include noise barriers and road surfacing treatments.

What equine routes are proposed? Connectivity to existing trails via equine underpasses are proposed at Abernethy Road, Gossage Road and Shanley Road, as well as a signalised Pegasus crossing over Thomas Road east of Briggs Road, and an unsignalised crossing on Wungong South Road at Thomas Road.

Further information

You can contact the project team on 138 138 or at enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au. The project webpage is available at <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/tonkin-hwy-extension>. You can also join the email subscription list to receive the latest project news.