PLANNING STUDY UPDATE
AUGUST 2025

Future Dongara-Geraldton-Northampton Route: Howatharra to Northampton

Draft planning concept released for consultation

Main Roads has released a draft concept plan for the northern section of a future Dongara-Geraldton-Northampton (DGN) route, between Howatharra and Northampton.

Informed by many years of planning investigations and consultation with landowners, stakeholders and the wider community, this design concept provides a strategic plan for a future single carriageway highway with overtaking lanes from Howatharra to Northampton.

Largely following or adjacent to the existing North West Coastal Highway alignment, this future route is being planned to cater for triple road trains, significantly improving future transport efficiency.

The design concept makes the most of the existing road reserve and aims to minimise future impacts on private property. It preserves the existing highway as a service road, where possible, and local road connections with protected turning pockets are provided for adjacent communities to safely access the highway.

Where a need has been identified to widen the road reserve, the design concept avoids the more populated areas such as Howatharra and Isseka, preserving homes and community infrastructure.

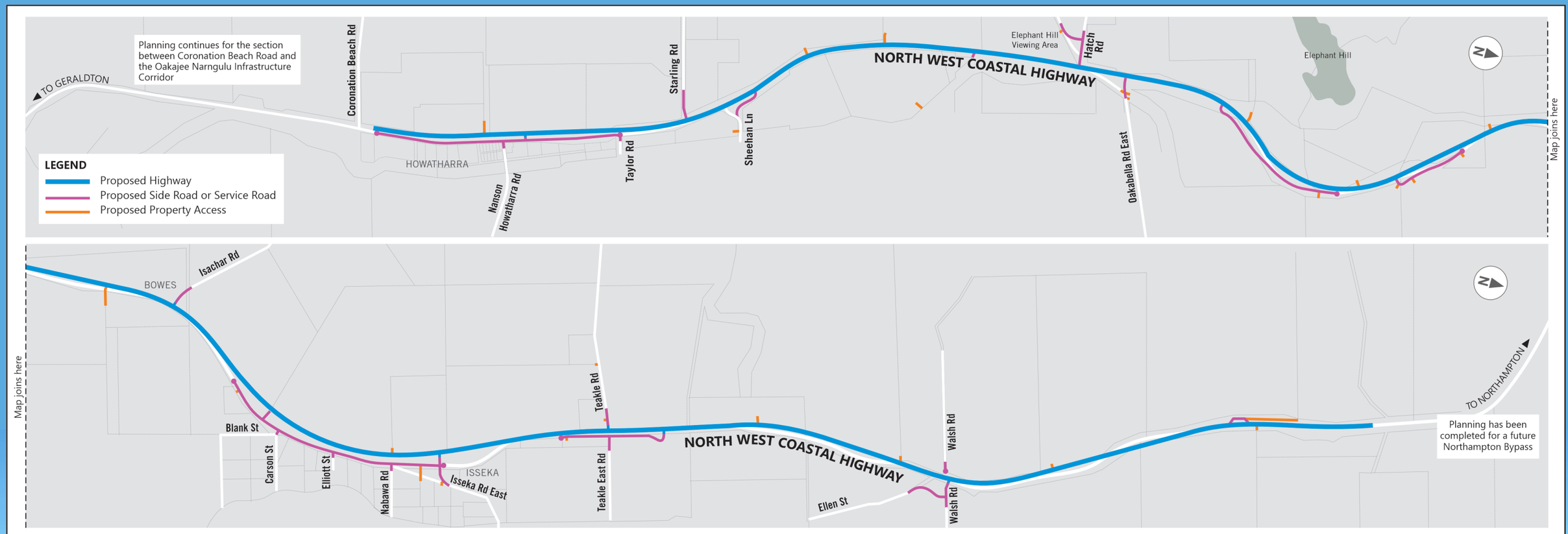
This planning design concept is now subject to further consultation with landowners along the alignment to discuss the best way to mitigate property impacts, where possible.

This consultation will help Main Roads confirm an indicative road reserve for the future road, make a recommendation to Government and ultimately protect land for future road infrastructure.

It is important to note that this is a high-level planning study only and there are currently no funds available for project development or construction. The road reserve identified at the conclusion of this planning phase will remain indicative until a final detailed design is approved for construction.

See overleaf for the draft road and access layout.

Future Dongara-Geraldton-Northampton Route
Draft road and access layout: Howatharra to Northampton



Benefits of a future Dongara-Geraldton-Northampton route

1. Increased freight efficiency by reducing travel time and operating costs
2. Improved safety for road users and regional communities by removing freight from built-up areas, providing properties with access via side roads and adding right turn lanes at intersections
3. Support for population and economic growth in the state's Mid West and north-western regions

How have we planned for a future Dongara-Geraldton-Northampton Route?

Early planning to 2023

More than 20 years of road planning and consultation has been undertaken in relation to the transport corridor between Dongara and Northampton.

Alignment Selection

In 2023 a broad corridor for a future DGN route was confirmed for further investigation. This was informed by early planning activities that considered numerous corridor options.

WE ARE HERE
Alignment Definition (North)

A planning concept for the northern section of the route, between Howatharra and Northampton, has been developed. We are now consulting with landowners along the alignment, to present the design concept and indicative road reserve.

Alignment Definition (South)

Planning is progressing for the Dongara to Moonyoonooka section, which is the longest stretch of the future DGN route. This section requires major connections to rural highways and the existing Oakajee Narngulu Infrastructure Corridor at Moonyoonooka, which is the most constrained location along the alignment. Landowners along the southern section will be contacted when a concept is ready for consultation.

Protecting an Indicative Road Reserve

Main Roads aims to incorporate the indicative road reserve boundary in local and state government planning documents, providing landowners with greater certainty about the potential extent of land required for the future highway.

Project Development and Construction

Once funding for the project is allocated by state and federal governments for construction, Main Roads will begin the detailed design process. Environmental and heritage approvals will be sought as part of this process. The final extent of land required for the future road reserve will then be confirmed.

Further information

Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera for more information and to subscribe for project updates.
Visit www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/dgnroute

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enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au
www.mainroads.wa.gov.au