

PROJECT UPDATE

AUGUST 2024



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Tonkin Highway Extension and Thomas Road Upgrade



The \$1.045 billion Tonkin Highway Extension and Thomas Road Upgrade is jointly funded by the Australian (\$749 million) and Western Australian (\$296 million) Governments.

Delivery update

Procurement is progressing well for the project's delivery, with contracts expected to be awarded by the end of 2024.

Procurement has been split into two contract packages that will be delivered at the same time.

Two consortia were shortlisted for Package One, which incorporates the Tonkin Highway extension from Thomas Road to Mundijong Road, and Thomas Road duplication from Kargotich Road to Alexander Road.

These two consortia have submitted detailed proposals on how they will design and construct the works, including pricing and key milestone dates. Main Roads is currently reviewing and evaluating these proposals.

Three consortia were shortlisted for Package Two of the project, which incorporates the Tonkin Highway

extension from Mundijong Road to South Western Highway.

Proposals are currently being prepared by these three consortia to demonstrate how they will deliver the works which will be evaluated by Main Roads.

Community consultation and feedback

Community information sessions were held on 25 and 29 May 2024 to provide an update on project delivery, provide more information on key themes from the 2023 community information sessions, and to enable community members the opportunity to ask the delivery team questions about the project.

Thank you to over 200 people who attended the sessions. The conversations and feedback were invaluable in furthering the project team's understanding of local issues and opportunities.

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Community information session in May 2024

An online survey was undertaken from 25 May to 29 June 2024 to provide a further opportunity to view the material and give the community the chance to have their say.

We received 253 responses to the online survey, and more than 1,000 views, with the top responders being (multiple answers allowed):

- Road users: 173
- Residents: 152
- Landowners: 115

Their preferred methods of communication were email, website, social media and newsletters in letterboxes.

87% of respondents said they supported the **Tonkin Highway Extension project.**

Top perceived benefits of the project, as identified by survey respondents, were:

- Less congestion on local roads
- Travel time savings
- Increased road safety and reduced risk of crashes
- Less freight and heavy vehicles travelling in community and local roads
- Upgrade of intersections (bridges, roundabouts, traffic lights)
- Improved connectivity of suburbs with regional centres

Topics of importance

During the community information sessions and online survey, there were many topics of importance raised by the community:

- During construction, management of traffic, maintaining local access (traffic detours) and minimising construction impacts (noise, vibrations, dust, light) were the most consistently raised topics.
- At project completion, local access, understanding new travel routes and changes, and noise mitigation were commonly raised topics.

This feedback is imperative in helping the project team prepare and plan for the upcoming delivery contract awards, and detailed design and construction stages.

Frequently asked questions

There were also several questions asked at the community information sessions and in the online survey. Answers to many common ones are below.

Design and construction

Will it be a continuous route, or will there be traffic lights?

There won't be any traffic signals on the extension of Tonkin Highway, however, there will be traffic signals at the Tonkin Highway/Thomas Road interchange on and off-ramps.

Are emergency exits incorporated if there is a bushfire?

In addition to the highway and its connecting intersections, emergency egress will be available at several locations – view the Access and Connectivity Map on the Main Roads project webpage.

How are the equine paths going to link up?

Connectivity is being provided to link existing equine paths in line with the Shire Serpentine Jarrahdale Equine Master Plan:

- Access across Tonkin Highway will be provided via underpasses at Abernethy Road, Gossage Road and Shanley Road.
- Access across Thomas Road will be provided via a signalised 'Pegasus Crossing' located east of Briggs Road and an unsignalised crossing near Wungong South Road (underpass at the Thomas Road bridge over rail).

Will CCTV cameras and lighting be included?

Lighting will be installed on the roads and shared paths to increase safety and security and CCTV installed to allow Main Roads to monitor traffic.

Will safety on Hopkinson Road be addressed?

Cul de sacs will be constructed at multiple locations along Hopkinson Road adjacent to Tonkin Highway, so it will no longer be a continuous road. The majority of existing north-south traffic will use the new Tonkin Highway.

How will pedestrians cross the highway?

A Principal Shared Path (PSP) will run along the eastern side of Tonkin Highway, with connections to local path network provided at Thomas Road, Orton Road, Bishop Road, Mundijong Road and South Western Highway, along with a number of other minor roads. Crossings of the highway will be included at strategic locations, including both underpasses and under bridges. Visit the project webpage for a detailed map.

What connectivity will Abernethy Road have?

Abernethy Road will go under Tonkin Highway via an underpass. On and off-ramps could not be safely accommodated due to the proximity of Thomas Road and Tonkin Highway interchange and Orton Road and

Tonkin Highway intersection. It would also have significant environmental implications, including a Bush Forever site to the south-west of the highway alignment.

Will fencing be provided for land adjacent to project?

Fencing will be undertaken as part of "accommodation works" once delivery contracts are awarded. The works will be facilitated in consultation with Main Roads and the affected property owners.

Will drainage be added to cope with existing flooding?

Hydraulic modelling has been undertaken to identify critical flow paths. These will be maintained through the provision of culverts below the road.

Drainage basins will also be provided adjacent to the road which allow flood water to accumulate. Basins have been sized to accommodate the predicted flood levels.

What location will construction start?

Once delivery contracts have been awarded in late 2024, construction staging will be known and communicated.

How long will construction take?

Construction is expected to start in mid-2025 and will be complete by late 2028.

How will trees and wildlife be protected?

Requirements are in place to minimise clearing and maintain trees and natural screening where possible. Reviews of the detailed design as it's developed will focus on retaining existing vegetation. Cleared vegetation will be offered to nearby schools and organisations for re-use.

Landscaping and revegetation works are part of the projects. These works will be undertaken towards the end of the project following winter rain.

How will construction noise and dust be managed?

The project will be required to abide by stringent dust and noise legislative requirements to minimise disruptions to nearby residents. Dust and noise monitors will be in place to ensure compliance.

Will existing access arrangements change during construction?

When road closures are required, access will remain available for local residents either through stop/go traffic management or detours on the existing local road network.

How will traffic noise be addressed on the project?

The project will comply with the requirements of *State Planning Policy 5.4 Road and Rail Noise*.

To ensure compliance Main Roads has elected to use an asphalt wearing course as opposed to a chip seal which is common on rural highway. This significant investment by Main Roads ensures a quieter finished surface.

In addition to meet compliance obligations, noise barriers or property acoustic treatments will be used.

Noise modelling has been undertaken using the concept design. Once a delivery contractor has been appointed, additional modelling will be undertaken to finalise the proposed noise mitigation treatments.

General

Are there plans to fix traffic issues on existing sections of Tonkin Highway?

Grade separations of Tonkin Highway at Hale Road, Welshpool Road and Kelvin Road are funded for construction as part of the Tonkin Highway Corridor project. Visit the Main Roads website for information on scope and timeframes.

Is there any focus on climate change impacts?

The project is ensuring the materials used during construction can be deconstructed and repurposed, ensuring the lifecycle of the materials chosen is considered. A Replacement Materials Strategy is being developed to maximise the amount of recycled and alternative materials used.

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.



Proposed Tonkin Highway and South Western Highway intersection