

Albany Ring Road Project

Revegetating Menang Drive

With the section of the Albany Ring Road (Menang Drive) project between Lancaster Road and Princess Royal Drive now complete, Main Roads' attention has turned to revegetating the areas disturbed during construction.

This includes locations where major earthworks took place to build the new interchanges at South Coast Highway and Hanrahan Road / Frenchman Bay Road.

Areas cleared to accommodate Menang Drive will be replanted using flora species native to the Great Southern Region.



Examples of Wattle (top) and Bottlebrush flora that will be planted on the approach to the Hanrahan Road and Frenchman Bay Road interchange.

About the revegetation program

The Menang Drive revegetation program has been carefully considered for several years, in consultation with key local stakeholders including the project's Environmental Reference Group (ERG), which comprised of various environmental catchment groups from Albany and surrounding areas. The landscape design vision for project is to blend the new infrastructure into the surrounding landscape through a focus on local flora that showcases the town and Great Southern Region.

Species selection considerations

The choice of vegetation has also been informed by its habitat and foraging potential, hydrological features and climatic conditions. The mixes complement existing vegetation and include locally significant species.

Plants and seed will be supplied from various sources including seed collection from species that naturally occur close to the project area.

When selecting roadside vegetation, consideration is also given to the road environment, including safety factors such as maintaining sight-lines on the approach to interchanges, the presence of underground services and ensuring space is allowed for road maintenance into the future.

Revegetation across the project area

Main alignment and interchanges

Planting along the alignment between Lancaster Road and Princess Royal Drive consists of a variety of flora mixes, including small shrubs and groundcovers either side of the median on the approach to overpasses and within the new roundabouts at Hanrahan Road and at Frenchman Bay Road. Species such as Wattle, Kangaroo Paw, Grevillea and Catspaw have been selected due to their attractive foliage and seasonal flowers.

This will be complemented with native revegetation mixes of canopy trees, shrubs and groundcovers. The mix includes Myrtaceous and Proteaceous tree species for improved fauna habitat and foraging. Selected species include (but are not limited to) Wattle varieties, Summer Snowflakes and Bottlebrush.

Batter slopes

Batter slopes that have been created during construction to address changes in ground level will be revegetated with various shrubs and groundcovers, including Scarlet Runner, Knotted Club Rush and Silky-leaved Blood Flower.

Drainage basins

The interchange sites at South Coast Highway and Frenchman Bay Road contain drainage basins to capture water run-off from the new road network. These basins will be revegetated with a non-frangible mix that includes canopy trees, sedges and rushes appropriate for basins and swales adjacent to drainage outlets. This mix also includes Myrtaceous and Proteaceous tree species for improved fauna habitat and foraging.

Feature trees

The planting strategy also includes planting of various non-frangible feature trees that are iconic in form and endemic to the Albany region. Selected species, which have been selected due to their resilience in roadside conditions include Peppermint, Sheoak, Banksia, Marri and Red Flowering Gum.

Vegetation size

Planting will comprise primarily of tube stock and seedlings. 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.

Revegetation timing

The revegetation program for the southern portion of the works between Lancaster Road and Princess Royal Drive, commenced in August 2024, and comprised of weed control and initial planting. Approximately 25 per cent of vegetation has been planted. The remaining vegetation will be planted over the next two winters (2025/2026). Our contractor, Decmil, will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the vegetation during this time to ensure the establishment and survival of new plants, trees and shrubs.



Revegetation of the Menang Drive / Albany Highway interchange began in 2022.