

Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridges Project

Creating a Great Place

The Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridges Project will see two iconic cable-stayed bridges across the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River), comprising a 6-metre-wide segregated path linking the Victoria Park foreshore with Matagarup (Heirisson Island) and Perth's CBD at Point Fraser. The project is being delivered by the Causeway Link Alliance (the Alliance), comprising Civmec Construction and Engineering, Seymour Whyte, WSP Australia, and Main Roads WA.

With major bridge construction works now complete, the focus has shifted to creating a great place for the community to enjoy. Embedding the bridges within the landscape will activate a destination to explore, including Matagarup and the adjacent river foreshore at Point Fraser and McCallum Park, with the opportunity to learn more about Noongar culture and experience the site's connection to Country.

Improved pathways and connections

The bridges will significantly improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, improving the path network and connections to and across the Derbarl Yerrigan. A key focus of the design has been to provide a high-quality, safe and pleasant network of paths, with key shared pathways for all users.

Pathways have been designed to segregate pedestrians and cyclists where possible, incorporating clear sightlines, appropriate lighting, and wayfinding signage. The path network will connect with the existing shared paths at McCallum Park and Point Fraser as well as tracks on Matagarup.

Take time to pause and enjoy the foreshore park amenities

Within the urban design there will be plenty of spaces to pause, rest and enjoy the bridges and their surrounds. For cyclists, bike racks will be available to encourage bike use and recreation. Pause Points will be located on the western side of the bridges' deck, at each of the pylons, providing users with the opportunity to take a break and enjoy the views of the river and the City.

At gathering spaces, rammed earth seating walls will be located across all four foreshore locations. Aligning with the theme of Caring for Country, rammed earth is a sustainable building method with a natural appearance.

In addition, a BBQ and picnic benches will be provided at McCallum Park, providing spaces that support informal as well as planned events and gatherings.



Figure 1 Concept of seating at Point Fraser

The enhancements at McCallum Park will also be complemented by the Town of Victoria Park's Active Area master plan, which will transform the park into a significant recreation destination. For more information visit the [Town's website](#).

Trees

We embrace and acknowledge the importance of increasing the tree canopy, improving biodiversity and providing habitats for animals to live and flourish near our city, Boorloo (Perth). Throughout the construction program, an Arborist has collaborated with the project team to maximise the retention of vegetation by minimising the damage from construction works to the roots of surrounding trees retained on Matagarup (Heirisson Island) and at Point Fraser, focusing on root system protection solutions. During the landscaping works, we will be planting a ratio of three new trees for every one removed during construction.

The project's significant landscaping program includes locally sourced vegetation including:

- 90,000 shrubs
- 200 new trees on McCallum Park,
- 350 new trees on Matagarup (Heirisson Island),
- 140 new trees on Point Fraser.



Figure 2 Concept of landscaping at McCallum Park, creating new public foreshore areas.

Landscaping will be conducted across 2024 and 2025, with vegetation planted during the wetter and cooler months. Whilst irrigation has been included in the new landscaping, water-sensitive urban design has also been integrated, using native species and making use of runoff from the Bridges' embankments to water the vegetation.

Whilst new trees and shrubs will take some years to establish, they will in time completely transform the landscape, creating new habitat for birds and fauna as well as more shade for path users. All new trees will be native species, including peppermint, paperbark and eucalyptus varieties.

Respect for Cultural Heritage - Matagarup (Heirisson Island)

Matagarup (Heirisson Island) is mostly reclaimed land and has been bushland for many years. To build the bridges across the island, the Alliance needed to remove some trees. As Matagarup is a culturally significant site for Aboriginal females, female members of the Matagarup Elders Group (MEG) were consulted on tree removal on the island.

The Alliance team:

- Clearly explained tree removal necessity
- Conducted site walks with members to show affected trees
- Sought guidance on replacement species.



Figure 3 Consulting with MEG members on tree retention

This approach resulted in some design changes to help retain more trees, resulting in support for the Alliance's environmental philosophy, effective engagement and respect for cultural heritage.

In consultation with the MEG, through yarning sessions and Walking on Country, the MEG shared site-specific stories, passed from generation to generation, developing the project's cultural narrative.

Vision Statement: Through interpretive architectural and landscape design and beautiful public art, this place will showcase Whadjuk Noongar culture to the world.

The Alliance's approach to Planning on Country has resulted in the following seven design strategies, guided by the Heritage Interpretation Strategy and Urban Design and Landscape Framework, ensuring a culturally sensitive design response and contributing to creating a great place:

- Public Art

- Landscape Design
- Bridges design response
- Signage and Wayfinding
- Lighting
- Nomenclature (a naming system)
- Event Spaces.

Lighting

The feature lighting on the bridges' cables will transform the bridges at night, with static and moving images and messages, creating an exciting new visual landmark for the Perth skyline.

The lighting designers consulted with the MEG to gather place-specific stories to be told through lighting. Underpinned by the cultural narrative, lighting content will tell stories significant to Noongar people, including depictions of the six Noongar seasons.

The lighting will also have the capability to highlight significant events and days celebrated in Western Australia, such as Lunar New Year, WA Day and ANZAC.



Figure 4 Example of feature lighting on the Point Fraser bridge

Public art

Four Noongar artists are creating public art for the areas around the new bridges. Each artist brings a diverse background, experience, and style to each art piece. The design of public art is a collaborative engagement process between leading and emerging Noongar artists and the MEG. This has created an opportunity for early career Noongar creatives to be mentored and supported during the development and delivery of artworks.

The project will include three large sculptures, one at McCallum Park, one on Matagarup (Heirisson Island) and one at Point Fraser. Each of the bridge abutments (where the bridges meet the land) will be painted with a unique mural. You can learn more about public art for the project by viewing the Fact Sheet [here](#).

Connecting with the Swan River (Derbarl Yerrigan) and Matagarup (Heirisson Island)

The new bridges will cross Matagarup (Heirisson Island), providing an opportunity to highlight the significant role the island has in Perth's Noongar heritage. Improved connection to the river and foreshore area on the island, while enhancing the natural environment through landscaping and showcasing Whadjuk Noongar heritage, will result in activation of the island, welcoming visitors and locals alike.

Corroboree space



Figure 5 Concept of the Corroboree space on Matagarup

Landscaping on Matagarup includes a Corroboree space, where groups will be able to gather and hold large events. There are few spaces like this available in Perth and it was important to the MEG and the wider Noongar community to have a Corroboree space on the island.

Further information

If you have any questions, please contact 138 138 or email enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au

More information about this project is also available on the project webpage and you can also subscribe for updates: www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/causeway-path