

PROJECT UPDATE

OCTOBER 2025



Australian Government

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Swan River Crossings

Fremantle Traffic Bridge



Towers rise above the existing bridge

Fremantle's new traffic bridge is now rising above the existing bridge deck level!

Road users, visitors to Fremantle and passers-by may have noticed a lot of activity on the south side of the bridge in recent weeks with successful completion of the first component of the upper towers. The towers indicate the new bridge's location and will eventually rise to 36 metres above the water level. Each tower has five small segments and eight saddles which will secure the bridge cables in place.

To maximise efficiency and construct as much of the new bridge as possible prior to bridge closure in early 2026, work on all four towers is being undertaken at the same time.

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Upcoming navigation channel access

The next stage of construction involves lifting edge beam segments and construction materials over the river to build the new bridge. A factsheet detailing the installation process for these segments is available [here](#).

During lifts, there will be some interruption to river traffic as we take measures to ensure the safety of river users and workers. This will involve contraflow vessel management and short, intermittent closures of one navigation channel. Closure timings will range from 15 minutes to over two hours. Closure locations (either the north or south channel) will be based on specific lifting movements over the channel. We are working with river users, including ferries and emergency services to manage impacts.

These lifts are expected to start in October 2025 and last until November 2026. Importantly:

- Spotter vessels will be placed in suitable locations to capture the attention of vessels approaching the bridge.
- Spotter vessels will be contactable via VHF channel 71.
- Signage (see below) will be displayed at boat ramps along the river and coast to reach boat users.
- River users are asked to travel carefully through the area.

SWAN RIVER CROSSINGS FREMANTLE TRAFFIC BRIDGE

NAVIGATION CHANNEL IMPACTS



USE VHF 71

TO RADIO SPOTTER
VESSELS

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information



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Construction activities on the Swan River Crossings Project (including existing bridge removal and new bridge install) scheduled in **late 2025 until late 2026** will require intermittent closures of one (either north or south) navigation channel.

Approach with caution. All river traffic must follow radio instructions provided by spotter vessels during the closures.



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Figure 1: Navigation Channel Closure Sign

Top Community Questions

When will the bridge close and how long will it close for?

Based on our current timetable, a closure of the bridge is expected in early 2026 for up to 12 months. A date will be provided in coming months.

What considerations have been made for local roads that will be impacted by extra traffic during the closure?

The key focus is to keep Stirling Highway (north and south) moving to avoid gridlock. Working with local governments within the area to agree on a series of road modifications has been critical. (see the Bridge Closure Fact Sheet [here](#)).

Since releasing the network modifications, we have continued to liaise with local government, schools and residents regarding management of local road impacts. We appreciate the patience of residents and the community as we deliver this work.

Supporting St. Patricks Winter Appeal

During August, Fremantle Bridges Alliance and contractors collected donations for St. Patricks Community Support Centre Fremantle's winter appeal. Donations included clothes, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, hats, sanitary items and non-perishable food items.

St. Pats is a non-for-profit organisation that has provided community housing and specialist support services for people facing homelessness in Fremantle and the South West Metropolitan area to Mandurah for over 50 years. Those experiencing homelessness have ongoing needs for non-perishable food items, toiletries, new socks / underwear, sleeping bags and blankets, which are distributed via their outreach service.

We were delighted to contribute to the community we are working in, and we look forward to continuing to support the community as construction progresses.



Figure 2: (left) Members of the Project team dropping off donations to St. Pat's and (right) a ute full of donations

Update on Road Network Changes

Road network modification works across the network are progressing during night shift to minimise impact to daytime traffic and to ensure they are functional at bridge closure. Works include underboring and conduit installation to prepare for new CCTV and signal modifications.

Roundabout metering has been identified as another initiative to help manage congestion at the High Street / Stirling Highway roundabout throughout the closure. Roundabout metering is a traffic control system where signals (typical red and amber lights) are placed on the roundabout approaches.

The signals will only activate during high traffic flow periods and will help with keep the roundabout clear of congestion, particularly during an unplanned incident.

Works have started at the roundabout for metering, including:

- Underboring and conduit works.
- Embedding traffic detector loops into the road surface to detect vehicles.
- Installing new traffic signal poles.
- Line marking on all approaches to the roundabout.

Wildlife Corner

We've heard a lot from the community about the importance of protecting the local wildlife around our project site and we take this seriously. We have trained dolphin spotters and a dedicated environmental team is on-site every day to help minimise fauna impacts.

One of our senior Health and Safety Advisors, Rob (a Fremantle local all his life) has a passion for observing and protecting animal life along the local waterways. He's captured great photos of various animals around our site. If you see him out and about, say hello and have a chat!



Figure 3: Rob (left) with images he has taken of wildlife on the Swan River, including a male Australian Darter.

Further Information

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Project or scan the QR code.

To sign up for Project Updates, click [here](#).

For enquiries, please phone 138 138 or email enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au.

