

Noongar Alignment Selection Working Group: Workshop Two Summary 16 October 2024



Current Status

On Wednesday 16 October, the second meeting of the Noongar Alignment Selection Working Group (NASWG) was held at the Pinjarra Lesser Hall.

The meeting was attended by members of the working group and representatives from Main Roads, and facilitated by Aboriginal Land Services and Aboriginal Co-design Consultancy.

The Welcome to Country acknowledged the importance of the group and thanked Main Roads for including group members in the conversation.

Workshop One Outcomes Report

Members were sent the Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct, proxy nominations, workshop procedures and the conflict of interest process after workshop one. At workshop two, members discussed their proposed changes and agreed to finalise the documents. Importantly, the Code of Conduct includes recognition of operating in a culturally appropriate way and the importance of this area over thousands of years in addition to the significance of the Pinjarra Massacre.

Constraints and Considerations

The group noted the culturally sensitive area that was agreed at the April 2023 community workshop. Information was given about another suggested alignment within the culturally sensitive area. The group discussed this and decided not to investigate it further. It was agreed that no alignment was to be placed in the culturally sensitive area.

Information was then shown about alignment constraints and considerations, and how these are used in selecting road alignments. These included:

- **Environmental:** Carnaby's Cockatoo potential habitat; Threatened and Priority Flora; Environmentally Sensitive Areas; Threatened Ecological Community; Flooding Extent; and Acid Sulphate Soils.
- **Heritage:** Aboriginal Places; Cultural Heritage; WA Heritage Council State Register and Local Heritage Survey.
- **Social:** noise; property impacts; community facilities; severance; sustainability; and future planning.
- **Economic:** length of road pavement; structure size (bridges); amount of earthworks; service relocations; and land costs.
- **Network performance:** new road length; travel time; freight efficiency; road upgrades; and future planning (eg connections).
- **Road safety:** number of intersections and spacing; road geometry.

The discussion included “trade-offs” – for example, considering how one constraint might impact another.

Members were asked if they had anything else to add to help in the decision making process. It was suggested that soil information would be important to consider. They also asked to see where alignments might be considered for the next workshop. Members may bring suggestions for the next workshop.

Workshop Program

The next workshop was proposed for November 2024, followed by three workshops in February, March/April and May/June 2025.

Workshop Conclusion

At the conclusion of the workshop, the content of this summary was reviewed, and it was agreed that the working group members would use it as a guide for conversations about the project with the wider community, while Main Roads would share it and publish it on the Main Roads website.

Background: Timeline

April 2023: a Noongar community workshop agreed on culturally sensitive areas around, and south of the previous PHHD alignment, and along the Murray River.

September 2023: A Noongar community workshop was held with Main Roads. It was agreed that a working group should be established and selection criteria for membership was agreed.

August 2024: First NASWG meeting held at Main Roads South West Region office in Bunbury. Members agreed to work together with Main Roads in a series of workshops to identify what constraints might exist, and how they might affect the selection of a preferred alignment.