

Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridges Project



Excitement builds as final works progress and VIP tours are welcomed to site

Over the past two years, the Matagarup Elders Group (MEG) have shared stories passed down through generations that highlight the cultural significance of Matagarup (Heirisson Island) to the Noongar people, guiding the design elements of the bridges. Recently the group were given a tour of the bridges, being the first members of the community to walk across the newly surfaced bridge deck.

To learn more about the significance of the site and how the MEG has influenced the project, see our [Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Fact Sheet](#).



Figure 1: Members of the MEG walking across the bridges

What's happening with construction?

With major construction works now complete on the bridges, the focus has shifted to creating a great place for the community to enjoy. This includes landscaping, creating a path network and connections across the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) and plenty of spaces to pause, rest and enjoy the bridges and their surrounds.

McCallum Park: All cables and lighting are now installed on the bridge with work commenced on the bridge deck. Landscaping is well underway, transforming the public spaces.



Figure 2: McCallum Park before works commenced



Figure 3: McCallum Park now, with the bridges in place and landscaping underway.

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

Heirisson Island (Matagarup): Landscaping continues on the island and at gathering spaces, rammed earth seating walls are being completed across all foreshore

locations. Line marking and permanent signs will be installed along the path network over the next month.



Figure 4: Landscaping on Heirisson Island (Matagarup) with established trees that were carefully retained during construction

Point Fraser: With all 36 cables installed on the bridge, wrap-around cable feature lighting is now being installed. Landscaping has commenced, with the construction of footpaths well underway, connecting to the existing shared paths, which will provide improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists travelling between Victoria Park and the City of Perth.

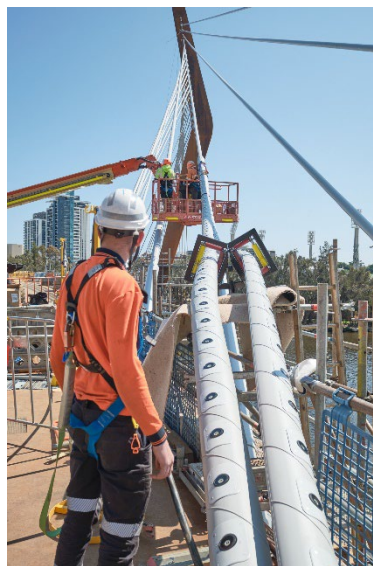


Figure 5: Cable feature lighting being installed on the Point Fraser boomerang pylon

To learn more about the next steps to bridge completion, see our [Infographic](#).

Ongoing maintenance on the Causeway Traffic Bridge

Main Roads are currently undertaking essential maintenance on the Causeway Bridges from Great Eastern Highway to East Perth. The works include some partial closures to footpaths and underpasses on and around the bridges. There will also be some night closures to traffic lanes and footpaths. These works are necessary to maintain and improve the longevity and aesthetics of the Causeway Bridges. Works are underway between 7am and 3pm daily and are due for completion at the end of June 2025.

Occasional nightworks with traffic lane closures will be necessary. Keep checking the [Main Roads Travel Map](#) for the latest updates. Pedestrians and riders should expect sporadic partial and full closures to shared paths over the Causeway and to underpasses. Pedestrian management will be in place for those closures. Works include maintenance to and painting of the concrete piers in the Swan River. Vessel management is in place.

Premier Cook visits the project to celebrate the installation of the final bridge segment

Premier Roger Cook, together with Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport Rita Saffioti, Federal MP for Swan Zaneta Mascarenhas and Member for Victoria Park Hannah Beazley recently visited the project site to celebrate the installation of the final bridge segment. Each bridge deck segment ranged from 22 to 42 metres in length. All 16 bridge modules were manufactured locally at Civmec's workshop in Henderson. No two deck segments were the same, which added to the complexity of the installation methodology.



Figure 6: Deputy Premier, Rita Saffioti speaking at the press conference on site

Weathering steel – a sustainable design choice

The design choice of constructing the Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridges with weathering steel, which provides a range of benefits including a unique architectural finish and greater sustainable outcomes for the project. In total, 1,900 tonnes of weathering steel have been used in fabricating the bridges.

Weathering steel has a higher strength than standard steel, which contributes to the lower weight and slenderness of the bridge decks. During construction fewer temporary supports were required, reducing the disturbance of the riverbed.

Weathering steel has contributed to improving the sustainability of the project by avoiding the need to paint (and repaint) the bridges. The enhanced corrosion resistance of weathering steel means that it can be used without the need for expensive paint systems. Removing the need to paint, also significantly lowered the fabrication costs as well as ongoing maintenance costs. Eliminating painting reduces chemicals and energy needed to paint the bridges as well as minimising disruption caused to path users by future maintenance.

On the Causeway Bridges, this will result in the steel becoming textured and giving the bridges a unique identity, effectively 'weathering' the steel in a natural way.

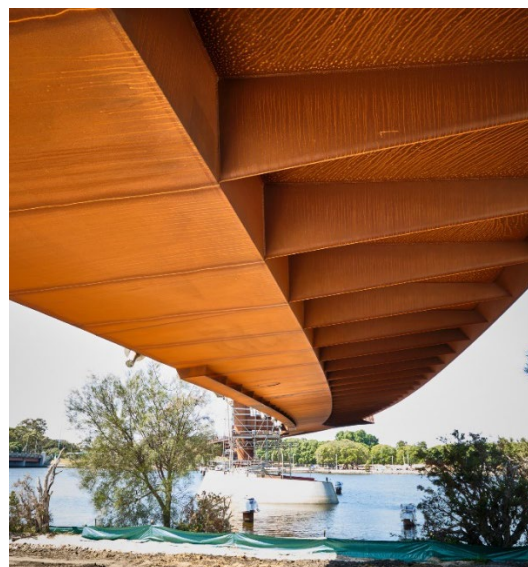


Figure 7: Over time, the bridges' steel surfaces will evolve and when fully weathered, which can take at least 8 years, will take on a distinctive natural appearance. They are likely to become a consistent dark brown to a purple colour, blending in with their environment.

The Project is providing opportunities for young people entering the construction industry

Tessa and Zach sat down with the project's communications team to tell us about their journeys and work on the project.



Figure 8: Tessa Walley, first-year electrical apprentice

Tell us about your role and background Tessa: "I'm a year into my four-year electrical apprenticeship. My family is from Pinjarra and my Dad is Whadjuk Noongar."

What have you been doing on this Project? "As a first-year apprentice, I get my role every day from my supervisor at pre-start. I've worked on changing switchboards, installing electrical equipment, pulling electrical cables through the bridges, including bringing the power for the bridge lighting across from Point Fraser to McCallum Park."

What most excites you about this Project? "It's pretty special to see all the design elements of the bridge that reflect and showcase Whadjuk Noongar culture – my Gran (Kay Walley) is on the Matagarup Elders Group advising the project. It's also special because I get to see the development of the project from start to finish, once it's complete I'll have a great sense of achievement – it's going to be really cool to see the end product!"

What advice would you give to other young people considering a similar career path? "I went to an all-girls school and trades were not pushed, I had no idea how to start! I think it's hard for females in general, you're just not given the information and often don't have the contacts. My advice would be, don't be scared to just call employers, TAFE etc and ask, just pick up

the phone. The industry is changing, and females are getting more and more recognition."



Figure 9: Zach, working for ReNew Property Maintenance, a social enterprise that connects disadvantaged at-risk young people with hands-on, entry-level employment opportunities

ReNew works with leading Perth businesses to turn everyday transactions into positive social outcomes. Young people are recruited through job providers, youth mental health centres and high schools. They have been contracted to be on-site at McCallum Park for 14 days over 8 weeks. This work has generated over 200 hours of paid employment for the 4 young people who have been on-site with their supervisors throughout the project.

Tell us about your role please Zach: "I've been working with ReNew for four and a half years, doing various jobs at sites around Perth including tree planting, landscaping and demolition preparation at places like Yanchep, the City of Subiaco and Curtin University. I like being outside, being in nature and working with other people who have the same passion, not just working alone. Working here is my first time working for a company."

What have you been doing on this Project? "We've been working on the landscaping at McCallum Park, levelling, screeding, mulching, tree planting and helping with the reticulation. The landscaping is pretty transformative to the area and it's been a good break from some of the general garden maintenance we usually do."

What most excites you about this Project? "It looks amazing, I'll be coming to the opening, I can't wait to see the lights!"

Public artwork painted under the bridges

With the construction of the bridges complete, as part of the Project's public art program, murals are being installed on the bridge abutments. Designed by emerging Noongar artists, the murals will reflect the significance of Heirisson Island (Matagarup) to Noongar people and facilitate a deeper engagement with the site's history for visitors. Take a look at the mural designs and read the stories behind them in our [Public Art Fact Sheet](#).



Figure 10: Ballardong, Wagyl Kaip with ties to Whadjuk country artist, Jodie Riley, painting Moorditj Ngaangk (Strong Mother) mural symbolising strong women, the starry night sky where many Dreamtime stories come from, is reflected on the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) below, with the colourful flower buds representing food sources.

Future engineers experience a bridge project under construction

Twenty-five Aboriginal senior high school students from across Australia had the opportunity to visit the project's work sites and learn more about the engineering and construction process. The site visit was part of the Indigenous Australian Engineering School (IAES)'s annual program hosted by Curtin's Faculty of Engineering and Science, on behalf of Engineering Aid Australia. The program is a one-week camp during the July school holidays, where students can discover how amazing engineering really is. Engineering firm WSP Australia, an Alliance partner and engineers of the bridges, have been supporting IAES for over 20 years.

The Alliance hosted the students, with Main Roads Project Director Mike Kapitola leading the site tour. They learnt directly from engineers about the design, engineering and construction process for the bridges,

including the Aboriginal design elements and the project's engagement with Traditional Owners. These elements included the digging sticks and boomerang pylons and the S-curved shape of the bridge symbolising the rainbow serpent (Wagyl). The students were some of the very first people to walk across the new bridges!



Figure 11: IAES students on a site tour of the bridges

We value your feedback

The project is being delivered by the Causeway Link Alliance (the Alliance), comprising Civec Construction and Engineering, Seymour Whyte, WSP Australia, and Main Roads WA.

The Alliance values ongoing feedback about how we can best communicate with you about the project. The survey should take no more than five minutes. [Click here to complete the survey](#)

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