

Bunbury Outer Ring Road



Bridge panels and centre piers being installed at the Bunbury Outer Ring Road and Forrest Highway interchange

This update contains information regarding the current and future works happening on the Bunbury Outer Ring Road (BORR) project. Information in this update is current as of October 2022 and is subject to change. For the most recent updates visit the Main Roads BORR website or visit the Bunbury Outer Ring Road Community Facebook Group.

School 'career tasters' program

The South West Gateway Alliance (SWGA) recently facilitated a 'career tasters' program in collaboration with South Regional TAFE and Jobs and Skills WA.

The program enabled 15 local school students to experience a 'day in the life' of working on a major construction project, with the SWGA team guiding students through various career pathways in the construction industry.

The day began with a safety induction and allocation of the appropriate personal protective equipment for each member of the 'crew' before heading out to Collie River to conduct some simulated heritage monitoring.

Aboriginal heritage monitoring is an important element of the clearing phase on the BORR project

sites. Students participated in an imitation artifact find, scanning an area on the Collie River for Aboriginal 'artifacts' and recording their findings.



Students completing heritage monitoring activity at Collie River

The Alliance's Aboriginal Participation Manager, Joanne Hill, shared her knowledge about local Aboriginal heritage, speaking about the significance of the Collie River to local Aboriginal people.

“My favourite thing was when we went to Collie River and learnt a lot about the river and other things. We also did a hunt and that was fun”, said Noah, one of the participating students.

Students then visited the Raymond Road project site to learn more about civil construction. They were shown how to use a sand penetrometer rod, which is a tool regularly used by the construction team to understand ground conditions on-site.

Before testing the sand, students completed a ‘good to go’ safety assessment to ensure they could complete the task safely.

“I liked when we did the sand compaction test. It’s important to always be careful and don’t get your fingers in the weight”, said Jackson.



Students completing the ‘sand penetrometer’ test

Students then went back to the BORR Community Hub to hear from the community and stakeholder engagement team about their role in the project before closing out the day.

Main Roads and the South West Gateway Alliance are committed to exposing students to STEM and civil construction career opportunities to broaden perspectives on future choices. We are looking forward to continuing this program in term one of 2023.

Raymond Road interchange update

Over the last few months, construction of the interchange at BORR and Raymond Road has powered ahead.

On both sides of the bridge, the installation of the Mechanically Stabilised Earth (MSE) walls has been completed.

The relief pattern on the walls of this bridge is inspired by the patterned shell of the endangered Western Swamp Tortoise.

The team is also nearing completion of the bridge centre piers. All piers have now had their lower and upper section concrete pours completed and the final stage is the formwork which will be stripped in the coming week. These piers all use a custom fibreglass finish.

The engineering effort and on-site works required to construct these piers make them some of the most technically difficult structures to build on BORR.



Centre piers and MSE walls at Raymond Road construction site

Artwork update

The Urban Design strategy for the Bunbury Outer Ring Road project was developed in consultation with the Urban Design and Landscaping Focus Group and the Aboriginal Heritage Advisory Group, before being shared with the community for feedback through a public survey.

Through these engagements, the concept of the Noongar Six Seasons was chosen to be the central design theme of the strategy. The project has committed to seven commissioned art opportunities across the alignment, with a minimum of three of these opportunities dedicated to local Noongar artists.

The first artwork commission was awarded to a local Noongar artist, Melissa Riley, for the BORR / Forrest Highway interchange with her artwork ‘Djilba’.



Bridge panel featuring a section of Melissa Riley's design

The second artwork opportunity has recently been awarded to Ian Mutch. Ian is currently in the process of developing the detailed design for the BORR/ Bussell Highway 'Y' interchange.

"The artwork is a response to my fond memories of driving through Gelorup while journeying down south. The cool colours depict the Mookaroo season, where Wannang (Peppi trees) start filling with seeds, ready to bloom in Djilba (Spring). The design is a playful abstraction of Peppi leaves and schools of fish, harnessing clear graphical forms, rhythm, and flow", he said.

Ian's concept is currently in development and we look forward to sharing the final design soon.



Flowing leaves of the WA peppermint tree that inspired Ian Mutch's artwork

We are now in the final phases of selecting two more artists for the Yalinda Drive bridge and screen walls, and the mega-bridge piers in Picton East.

The next opportunity for local Noongar artists is the expression of interest to provide artwork on noise walls located at the intersection of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road and South Western Highway (north).

If you are interested in getting involved, we are holding an artist briefing on Tuesday, 1 November, from 11am to 12pm in Bunbury. You can attend in person or online; just let us know when you register. To register, email enquiries@swgateway.com.au.

Southern section landowner engagement

In September, southern section landowners receiving works at their property were invited to the BORR Community Hub to meet the team and gain a greater understanding of the design of the project in relation to their property. In particular, the event focused on the installation of noise and screen walls, and other required works such as fencing, driveway access and firebreaks.



Landowners from the southern section attending the engagement event

Yaka Dandjoo program update

Since our last update in August, we've had two more cohorts graduate from the Yaka Dandjoo 'Sustainable Employment' program. The fifth and sixth cohorts had nine and eight students, respectively.

The program is focused on building meaningful career pathways for unemployed and job-transitioning participants. This is accomplished through mentorships, training, and preparing students to work on major infrastructure projects in WA.



Graduation barbecue with SWGA employees at the Waterloo Road construction site

To date, we've had more than 80 students complete the program, with 30 graduates gaining employment in civil construction.

Four students from cohort six have already found work as labourers and roller operators on BORR, with the team working on placing the other graduates soon.

One of the graduates from the second cohort is Tara, who completed the program with both her son and husband.

Tara has successfully found employment and continues to provide mentoring and support to other graduates that start on BORR.

Originally employed in January 2022 by a project subcontractor, Picton Civil, Tara recently accepted a new role within the South West Gateway Alliance.

The BORR project is Tara's first job, as she was the primary carer for her five children prior to starting the program.



Tara with the roller she operates on the project

The seventh cohort of participants will kick off the program at the end of October to close out the Yaka Dandjoo program for this year. If you're interested in being involved, contact Main Roads on 138 138, or email

enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au.



The sixth cohort of Yaka Dandjoo (from left to right): Damon Cotton, Joanna Narrier, Carlene Thorne, Eva Thorne (front), Kharn Reynolds, Christian Mears, and Joseph Hill.

Local businesses collaborate on grass tree relocation

Seventy-one large 'balga' (grass trees or *Xanthorrhoea Preissii*) were recently collected from construction areas across Picton East and Paradise. The trees will be maintained by local nursery staff until they are ultimately used as a landscaping feature on BORR.

This initiative was a collaboration between several of the project's subcontractors. Roelands Nursery staff assisted with the retrieval and will be responsible for maintaining the trees. Beyond Bricks, a local stone and brick supplier, provided the transport to move the trees to the nursery from the construction site. The team from BCP Group and Picton Civil assisted with excavator operations, and the team from Ketterages Stockfeeds provided the bulka bags that the trees were stored in.

Collaborating with local businesses in the region is a key aspect of the BORR project.

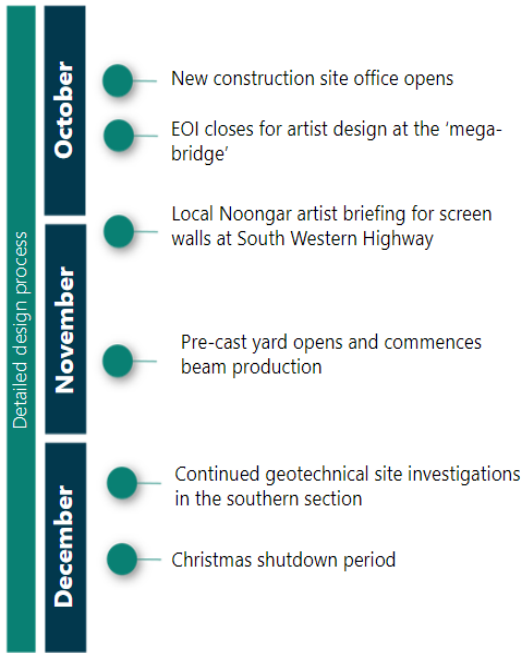


Some of the team involved in the relocation (from left to right): Lee, Claude and Gary (nurserymen from Roelands Nursery) and Glenn (owner/operator from Beyond Bricks).

Get in touch

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

What's next on the project?



Spend tracker

The South West Gateway Alliance is working to increase opportunities on BORR for local and Aboriginal business. Our progress to end September is shown below.

