



**mainroads**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Mitchell Freeway Extension –  
Hester Avenue to Romeo  
Road

October 2019

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# Background

## Project Overview

Mitchell Freeway is the primary north-south connection between the CBD and northern suburbs. To accommodate for the continuous expansion of the metropolitan area, it has been progressively extended north since its initial construction in 1973. The previous extension was from Burns Beach Road to Hester Avenue.

To service the rapidly growing north-western suburbs of Butler, Yanchep, Alkimos and Eglinton, as well as areas to the east including Nowergup, Main Roads is planning for the future extension of Mitchell Freeway from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road. A reservation for the freeway extension has been included in the Metropolitan Region Scheme for a number of years.

The preliminary concept includes:

- A 5.6 km extension of Mitchell Freeway from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road with two traffic lanes in each direction and provision for future widening;
- Completion of the interchange at Hester Avenue;
- New interchange at Lukin Drive;
- A rail tunnel or bridge for the existing rail to exit the freeway median to Butler station;
- A new principal shared path for cyclists and pedestrians on the western side of the freeway from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road;
- Constructing and connecting Romeo Road between Marmion Avenue and Wanneroo Road;
- Noise mitigation, street lighting and safety barriers where required; and
- Duplication of Wanneroo Road for 1.8 km from Romeo Road to Trian Road

To determine the general level of community support for the project, and identify people's preferred method to stay informed about its progress, Main Roads undertook a community consultation survey via My Say Transport (MST).

# Community and Stakeholder Engagement Process

Since March 2019, Main Roads has maintained a [webpage for the project](#) that encourages interested visitors to subscribe for updates (Appendix 1).

On 26 August 2019, Main Roads issued a project update newsletter to local residents. Approximately 17,000 newsletters were printed and distributed within the boundary of Old Yanchep Road, Neerabup Road, Connolly Drive, Hester Avenue and Marmion Avenue north of Eglinton. (Appendix 2). This newsletter provided details on the MST survey. The survey (Appendix 3) was launched on the same day and a link was added to the project webpage.

Main Roads advised the City of Wanneroo, and the Yanchep Rail Extension team within METRONET, of the newsletter prior to its issue.

On 3 September 2019, the Wanneroo Times ran an extensive article about the project, encouraged interested readers to participate in the MST survey and provided a link (Appendix 4).

From 26 August to 27 September 2019, Main Roads received 128 survey responses via MST, and 14 direct submissions, from members of the public.

During the consultation period, Main Roads also directly responded to residents that requested specific information on the project's scope and timeframes.

# Results and Key Findings

All My Say Transport survey responses have been analysed for this report. The key findings are examined below. Unabridged results, modified to censor personally identifying information, are included as a separate document available at: <https://www.mysaytransport.wa.gov.au/mitchell-freeway>

## Key themes

### **High Support and Expected Use of Extension**

The vast majority of respondents expressed support for the project and indicated they would be travelling along the extension at least three times per week.

### **Project Expected to Service Northern Suburb Residents**

The majority of respondents indicated they lived in an area that will be best accessed by the extension.

### **Interest in Local Road Connectivity**

The project element with highest interest from respondents was the new freeway access points. A number of text submissions, in response to questions, indicated they would welcome the opportunity for further consultation on future freeway connections.

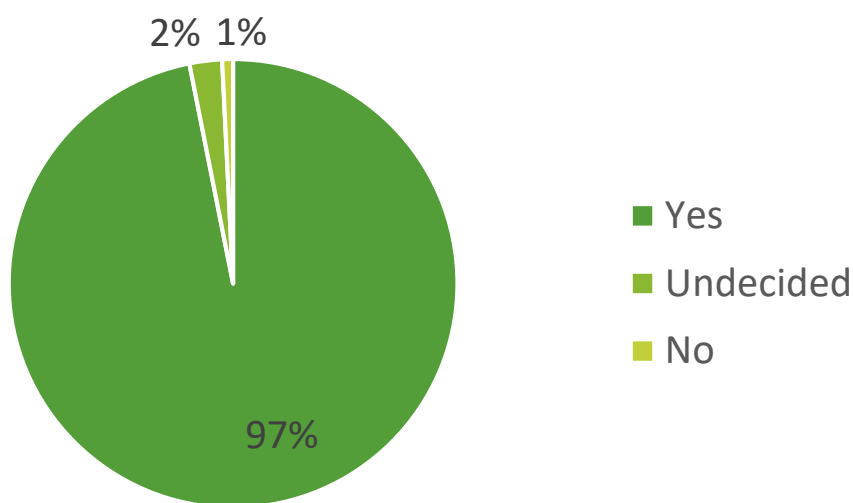
### **Interest in Emailed and Online Project Updates**

The majority of respondents indicated they would be interested in receiving project updates by email, others suggested they would visit the website. Very few expressed interest in attending a community liaison group.

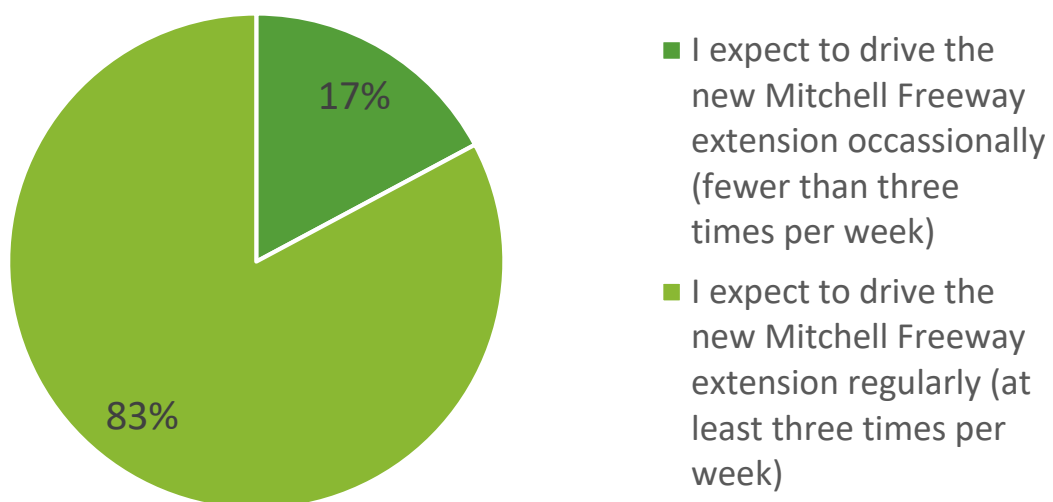
## Support for the Concept and Expected Use

The vast majority of participants supported the project, followed by participants who were undecided. A strong majority expected to use the extension regularly once complete.

Are you supportive of plans to extend Mitchell Freeway north from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road?



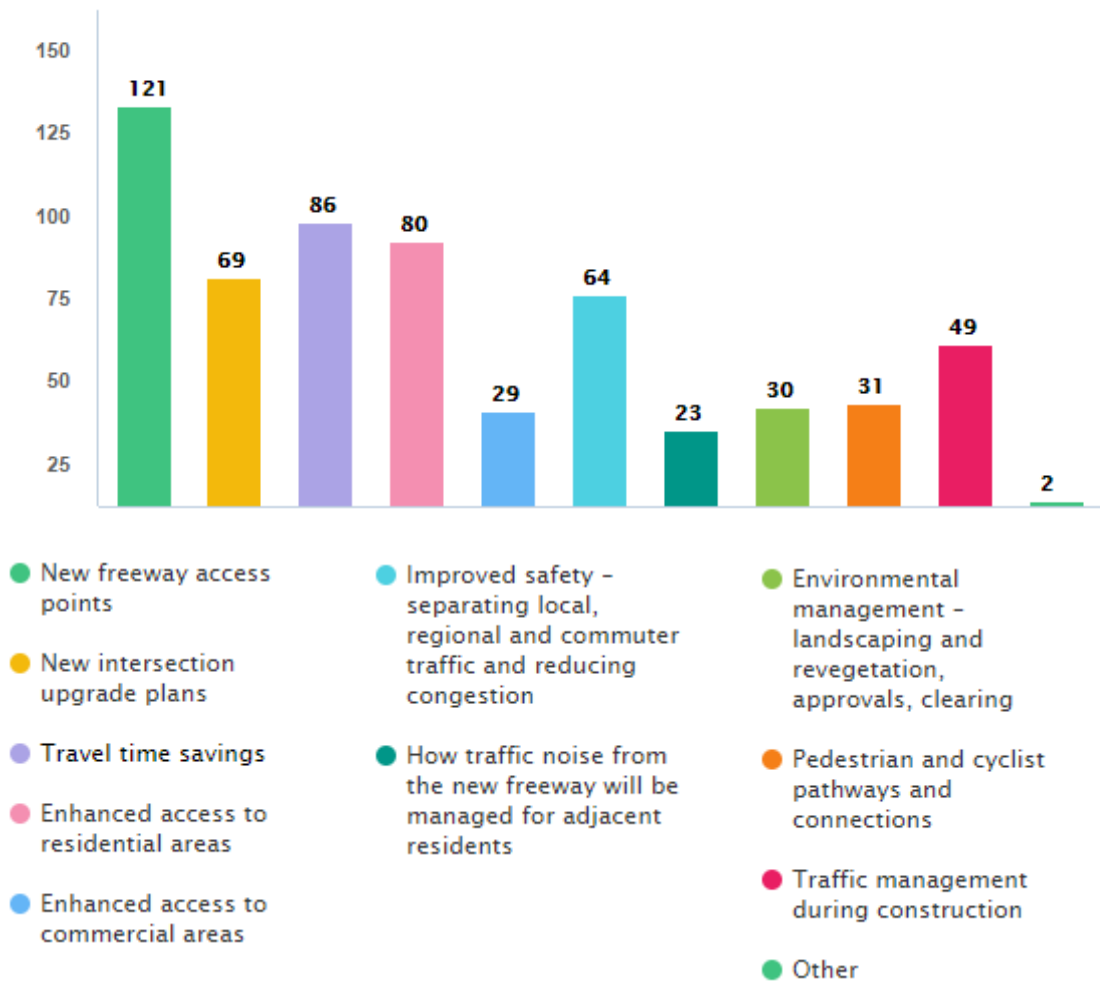
How often do you anticipate driving the new extension of Mitchell Freeway to Romeo Road?



# Interest in Project Elements

Participants could select multiple answers. The notable result is the interest in new freeway access points, travel time savings and the project’s enhanced access to residential areas.

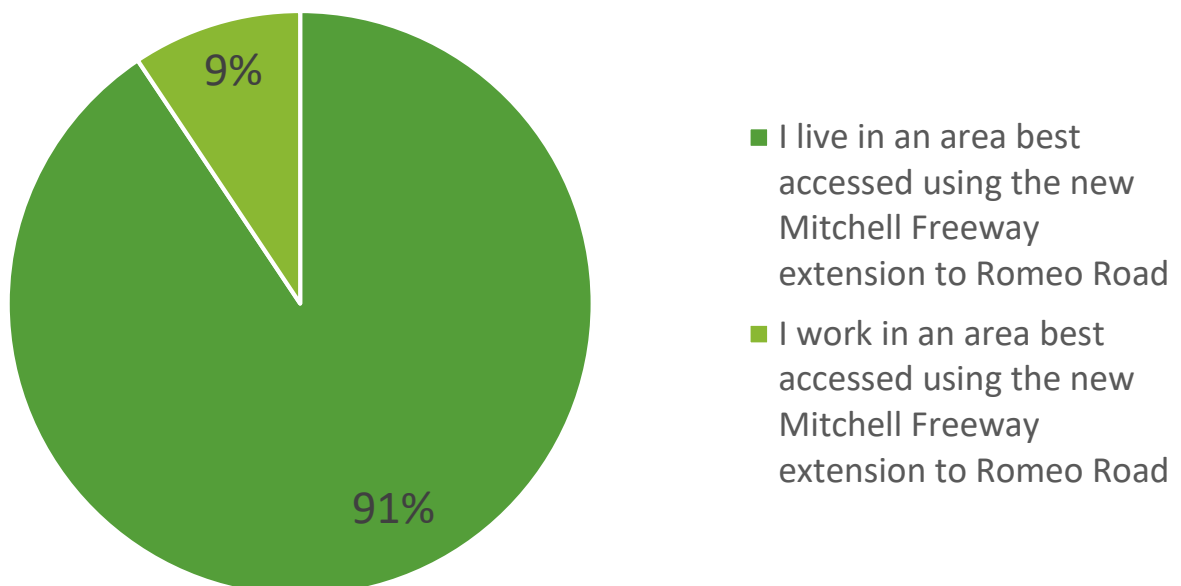
Which elements of the project are you most interested in?



## Participants' Relationship to Mitchell Freeway Extension

The majority of survey respondents lived in an area best accessed by the extension, supporting one of the aims of the project: servicing the growing northern and outer suburbs.

Which of the following best describes you?

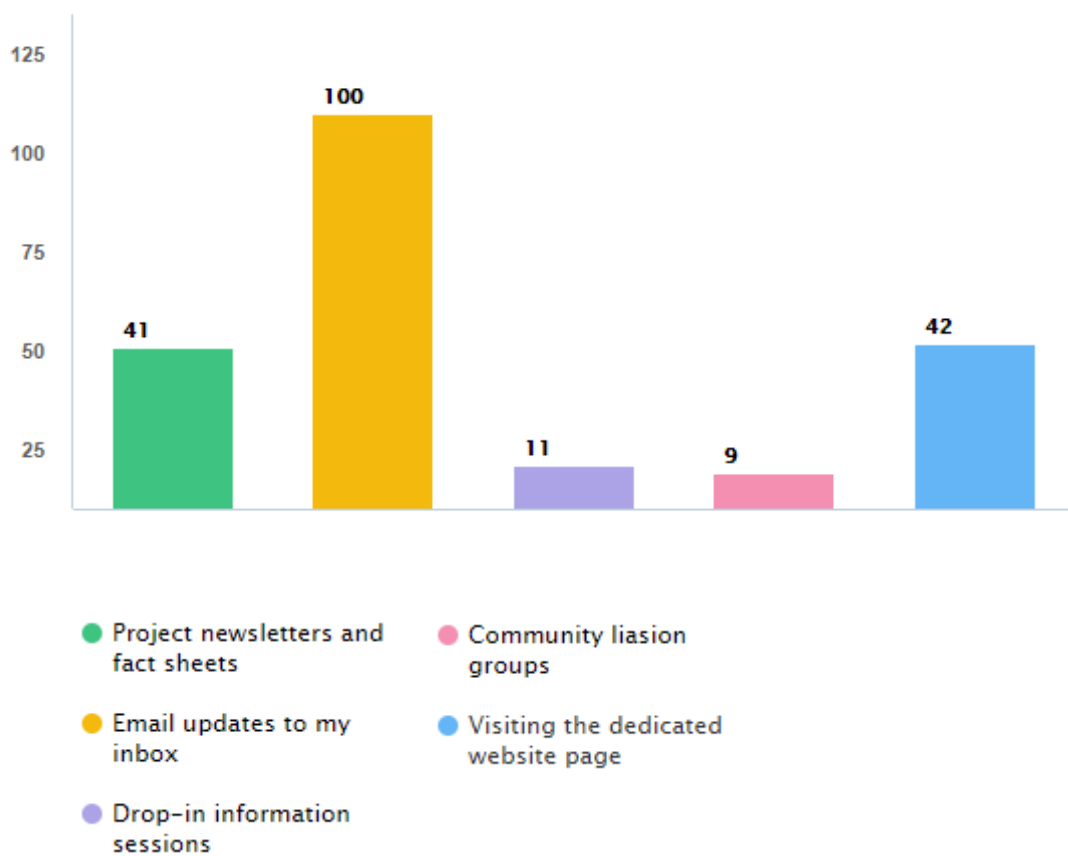




## Preferences for Future Project Information

The majority of participants indicated they wanted to stay informed about the project via email updates, very few expressed interest in drop-in sessions or attending a community liaison group.

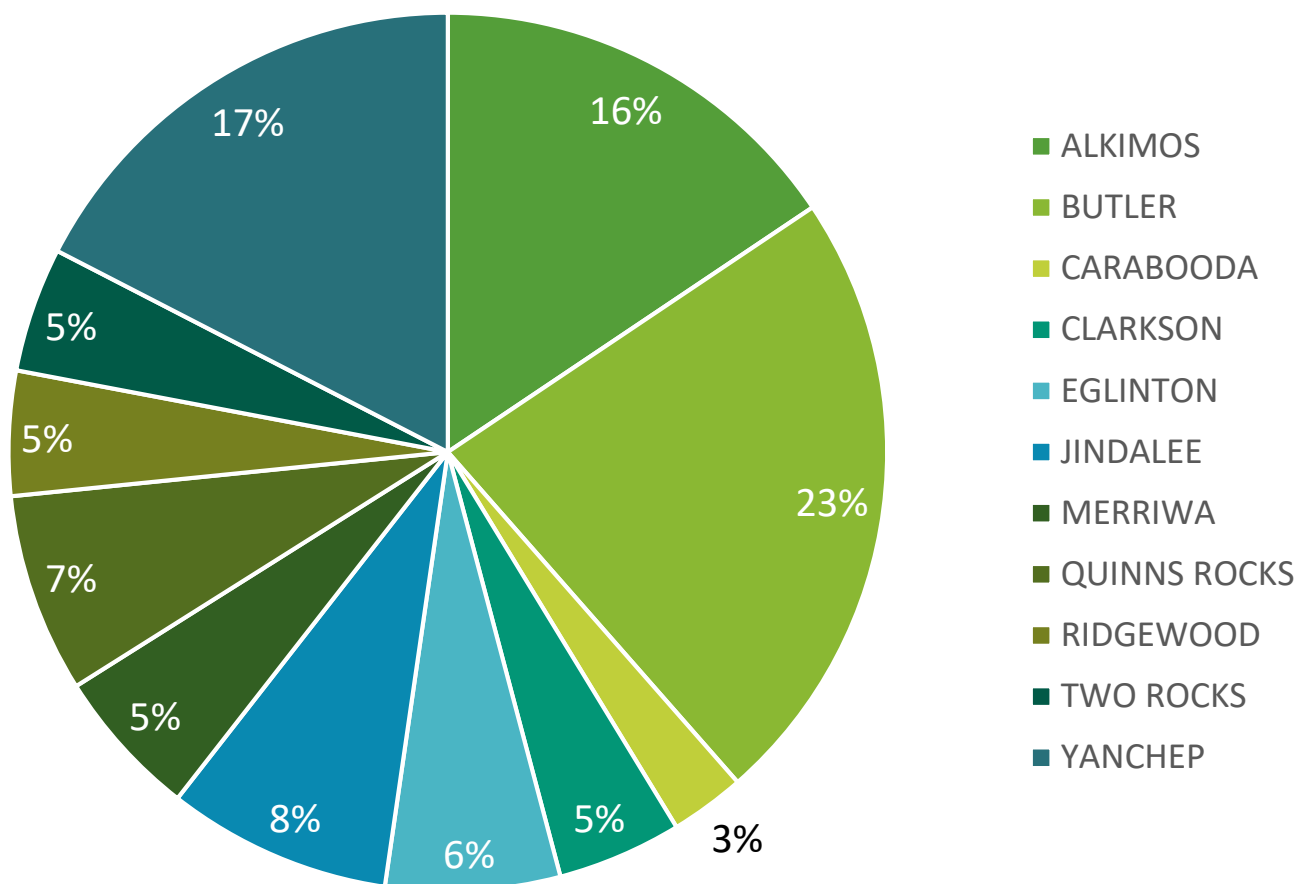
How would you like to be kept informed?



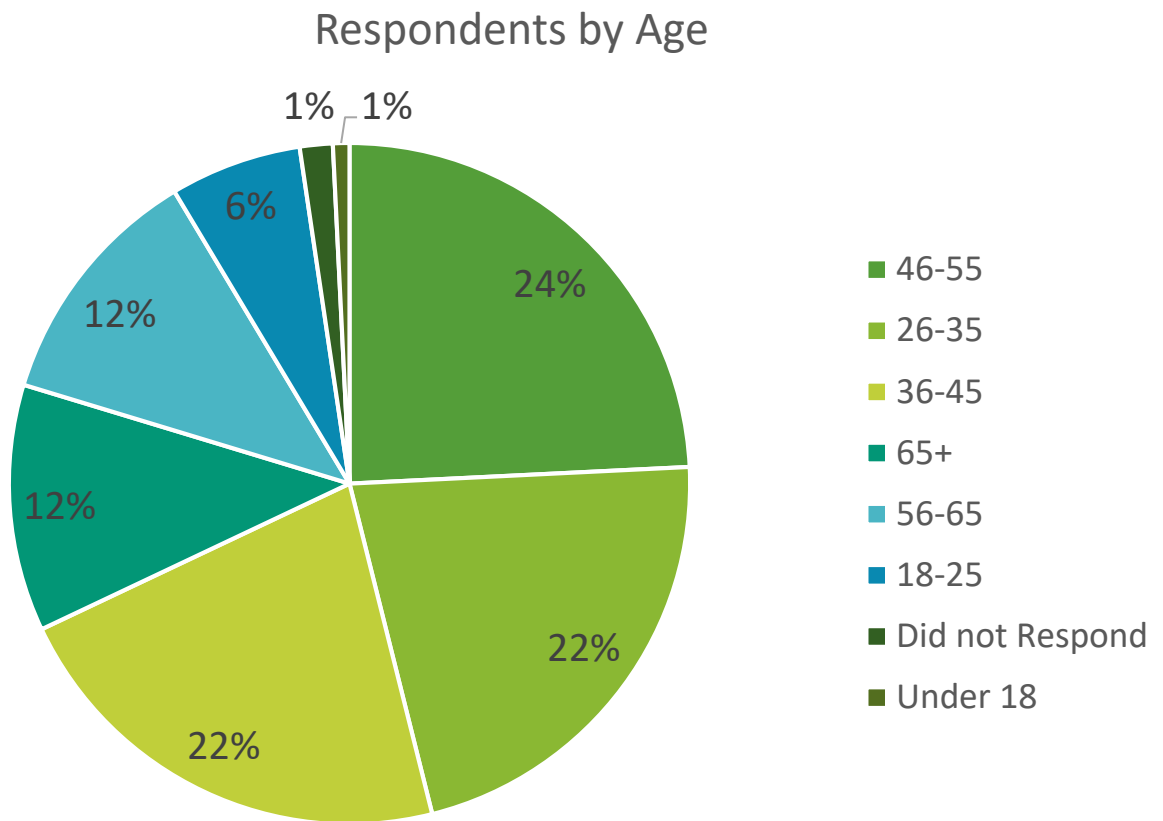
## Respondent Demographics

The majority of survey respondents identified as living in Butler, Alkimos and Yanchep. This validates the previous responses regarding expected use of the extension.

Respondents by Suburb (Top 85%)



The age range of respondents was well balanced and covers a suitable cross-section of groups typically expected to respond to a survey on this topic.



# Appendix 1 – Project Webpage

## Mitchell Freeway Extension

### Hester Avenue to Romeo Road

- Planning is underway for the extension of Mitchell Freeway
- Construction will align with the Yanchep Rail Extension
- Works will commence in late 2020
- Visit [My Say Transport](#) and have your say to help us plan the extension.

### Overview

We are planning for the future extension of Mitchell Freeway - creating a high standard north-south transport link in Perth's north western suburbs. A reservation for the freeway extension has been included in the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) for a number of years.

This extension is part of a suite of transport infrastructure improvements designed to support the expansion of Perth's fast growing outer northern suburbs. It will alleviate pressure on the local road network, reduce travel times and improve safety and connectivity for people living and working in the region now and into the future.

The preliminary concept includes:

- A 5.6 km extension of Mitchell Freeway from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road with two traffic lanes in each direction and provision for future widening
- Completion of the interchange at Hester Avenue
- New interchange at Lukin Drive
- A rail tunnel or bridge for the existing rail to exit the freeway median to Butler station
- A new principal shared path for cyclists and pedestrians on the western side of the freeway from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road
- Constructing and connecting Romeo Road between Marmion Avenue and Wanneroo Road
- Noise mitigation, street lighting and safety barriers where required
- Duplication of Wanneroo Road for 1.8 km from Romeo Road to Triana Road

## Project update

Extensive planning and project development is now underway to confirm the scope and progress the various approvals to allow for construction. See the latest [project update](#) for more information.

Activities include:

- stakeholder consultation to identify and resolve various constraints/issues
- concept design, geotechnical and site investigations, traffic modelling and environmental assessments to inform environmental processes and approvals
- community engagement - visit [My Say Transport](#) to have your say and help us plan the extension

Construction will be aligned to complement the [Yanchep Rail Extension](#) - part of the State Government's commitment to METRONET - to ensure a coordinated program of works that delivers well planned transport infrastructure for the Northern suburbs and the wider metropolitan area.

## Timeline

- 2019: Planning and development - Develop preliminary Design - engage stakeholders to identify issues/constraints, traffic modelling, geotechnical investigations, environmental/heritage surveys, seek environmental approvals
- 2020: Works to commence
- 2022: Anticipated end of construction in late 2022

## Funding

The project is jointly funded by the Australian (\$107.5 million) and Western Australian (\$107.5 million) governments.

## Find out more

### Media Statements

[Mitchell Freeway Extension to Romeo Road to start next year](#)



Image: Map

# Appendix 2 – Project Update

**PROJECT UPDATE  
AUGUST 2019**



Australian Government



**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**

## Mitchell Freeway Extension Hester Avenue to Romeo Road



Jointly funded by the Australian (\$107.5 million) and Western Australian (\$107.5 million) governments. The freeway extension will **improve safety and efficiency**, alleviate pressure on the local road network and **reduce travel times**.

**About the project**  
We are planning for the future extension of Mitchell Freeway north from Hester Avenue in Clarkson to Romeo Road in Alkimos – adding to Perth's high standard north-south transport link. A reservation for the freeway extension north has been included in the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) for a number of years.  
The freeway extension will service the rapidly growing outer north western suburbs of Butler, Yanchep, Alkimos and Eglinton, as well as areas to the east including Nowargup.

**Key features**  
Features of the project currently include:

- A 5.6 km extension of Mitchell Freeway from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road with two traffic lanes in each direction and provision for future widening
- Completion of the Mitchell Freeway interchange at Hester Avenue
- A new freeway interchange at Lukin Drive
- A rail tunnel or road bridge for the existing rail line to exit the freeway median to Butler station
- A new Principal Shared Path (PSP) for cyclists and pedestrians on the western side of the freeway from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road
- Constructing and connecting Romeo Road between Marmion Avenue and Wanneroo Road
- Noise mitigation, street lighting and safety barriers, where required, and
- Duplication of Wanneroo Road for 1.8 km from Romeo Road to Trian Road.


**Why is the project needed?**  
The Mitchell Freeway extension is part of a suite of transport infrastructure improvements designed to support the expansion of Perth's fast growing outer northern suburbs. The freeway extension will alleviate pressure on the local road network, reduce travel times and improve safety and connectivity for people living and working in the region now and into the future.

**Community consultation**  
We are inviting you to provide feedback regarding the Mitchell Freeway Extension from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road to enable us to identify our stakeholders' key views, concerns and ideas about the project.  
We invite you to provide your comments by 27 September 2019. You are able to provide feedback in a number of ways:

- Complete an online survey at [www.mysaytransport.wa.gov.au](http://www.mysaytransport.wa.gov.au)
- Via email to [enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au)
- Post to PO Box 6202 EAST PERTH WA 6892
- Phone 138 138

Your feedback is important and will be used to refine a concept design for the project over the coming months.

[www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au)



*We're working for  
Western Australia.*



## QUICK FACTS

### How will traffic noise from the freeway be managed for adjacent residential areas?

Noise modelling will be undertaken in late 2019 to look at the implications of the freeway extension's road traffic noise on adjacent residential properties. The noise modelling will consider projected future traffic volumes for the freeway extension, locations and types of noise mitigation.

Final design for the project's noise mitigation will occur in 2020. We will ensure adjacent landowners are made aware of this information as the project develops.

### How will the environment be managed?

Minimising the impact on the natural environment from roads and road use is a key focus for Main Roads and responsible environmental stewardship when developing and maintaining the road network is critical to our success.

Recognising the environmental values along the proposed route, Main Roads referred the project to the Federal Department of the Environment and Energy (DotEE) for assessment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act in December 2018. That assessment considered a project development boundary within which Main Roads proposes to construct the freeway and associated works.

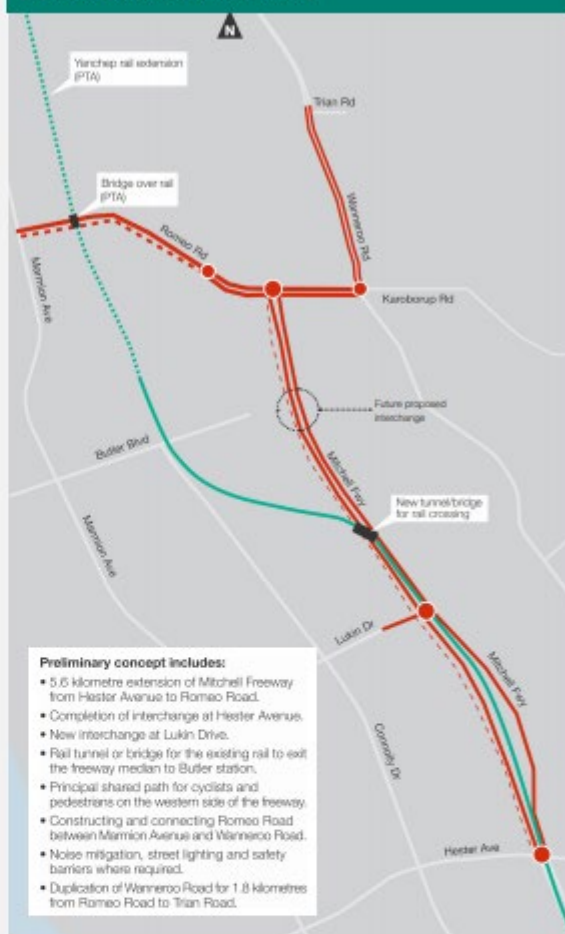
In April 2019, DotEE identified Mitchell Freeway Extension as a controlled action that requires assessment and approval before proceeding. This expected assessment level and the associated approval process will take approximately 12-18 months to finalise.

### What pedestrian and cyclist facilities are being considered?

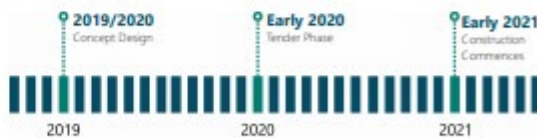
A Principal Shared Path (PSP) is proposed along the western side of the freeway reserve from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road with strategic connections to the local path network to be provided at yet to be identified locations. The proposed PSP will connect to the existing PSP network provided along the west side of the freeway corridor.

Opportunities to provide strategic connections to the existing Heritage Trail within Nowergup National Park (freeway and Hester Avenue) and to Nowergup Lake Hike Trail will be investigated in collaboration with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), where possible. Consideration will also be given to on-road cycling facilities, where appropriate, for Wanneroo Road, Romeo Road and other road connections as part of the project.

## Mitchell Freeway Extension – Hester Avenue to Romeo Road



### Timeline



### Want more Information?

Project information is available at [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/projects](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/projects) by emailing [enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au) or phoning 138 138.

You can also register for project updates by heading to our project page and subscribing for email updates.

This document can be provided in alternative formats upon request

[www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au)



138 138  
[enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au)  
[www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au)

## Appendix 3 – My Say Transport Survey

Are you supportive of plans to extend Mitchell Freeway north from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road? \*

- Yes  No  Undecided

Which of the following best describes you? \*

- I live in an area best accessed using the new Mitchell Freeway extension to Romeo Road  
 I work in an area best accessed using the new Mitchell Freeway extension to Romeo Road

How often do you anticipate driving the new extension of Mitchell Freeway to Romeo Road? \*

- I expect to drive the new Mitchell Freeway extension regularly (at least three times per week)  
 I expect to drive the new Mitchell Freeway extension occasionally (fewer than three times per week)

Which elements of the project are you most interested in? \*

- New freeway access points  
 New intersection upgrade plans  
 Travel time savings  
 Enhanced access to residential areas  
 Enhanced access to commercial areas  
 Improved safety – separating local, regional and commuter traffic and reducing congestion  
 How traffic noise from the new freeway will be managed for adjacent residents  
 Environmental management – landscaping and revegetation, approvals, clearing  
 Pedestrian and cyclist pathways and connections  
 Traffic management during construction  
 Other

How would you like to be kept informed? \*

- Visiting the dedicated website page  
 Project newsletters and fact sheets  
 Email updates to my inbox  
 Drop-in information sessions  
 Community liaison groups

# Appendix 4 – Wanneroo Times Article

10/1/2019

Main Roads seeks feedback on Mitchell Freeway extension | Community News Group



## Main Roads seeks feedback on Mitchell Freeway extension

September 3rd, 2019, 05:18PM | Written by Lucy Jarvis | Wanneroo Times (<https://www.communitynews.com.au/wanneroo-times/>)

[NEWS \(WANNEROO-TIMES/NEWS\)](#)

📷 Main Roads is running an online survey on the Mitchell Freeway extension from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road.

RURAL landowners and business operators say road connections will have economic benefits as consultation opens on the next Mitchell Freeway extension.

The State Government has invited feedback on plans to extend the freeway from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road, with construction expected to start late next year.

North Wanneroo Residents Association chairman Mark Zagar said the group wanted a connection from the Lukin Drive interchange to Wanneroo Road.

"It would provide desperately needed economic stimulus for struggling farmers, local businesses and resident families," he said.

"It would reduce congestion, particularly heavy haulage trucks, on Wanneroo Road, where there has been many recent fatal accidents."

Transport Minister Rita Saffioti said the freeway extension and Metronet's Yanchep Rail Extension would create thousands of jobs and, once built, facilitate development of more homes, businesses and jobs in the area.



"At this stage, the extension of Lukin Drive east of the Mitchell Freeway has not been progressed for environmental reasons," she said.



Map of the proposed Mitchell Freeway extension from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road.

Ms Saffioti said there would be east-west connections about 2km south of Lukin Drive at Hester Avenue and 3km north at Romeo Road, which would connect from Wanneroo Road to Marmion Avenue.

Mr Zagar said the association approached Opposition transport spokeswoman Libby Mettam after Wanneroo MLA Sabine Winton said she did not support

having Lukin Drive extend through Neerabup National Park.

Ms Winton told *Community News* most people were delighted there would be an east-west connection at Romeo Road because the current link at Pipidinny Road was "unsatisfactory".

"Romeo Road will serve that purpose; there's absolutely no need for Lukin," she said.

"Having that connection at Lukin further sterilises Neerabup National Park."

However, Mr Zagar said there already other roads through the national park, including Hester Avenue and Neerabup Road, with underpasses for wildlife, walkers and mountain bike riders.

"It would be the only freeway interchange in Perth without an east-west connection," he said.



Romeo Road will link to Wanneroo Road.

The Nowergup resident said having the link from Lukin Drive was also important if there were bushfires, giving more detour options, but Ms Winton, who also lived in Nowergup, said Romeo Road would

provide that.

Ms Mettam recently visited the area and said, given community support, the State Government should consider the Lukin link as part of the project scope.

"Community consultation on the freeway extension is finally underway, so I would encourage members of the community to contact Main Roads to make their views on this known," she said.

"We currently service those suburbs and surrounding on nearly a daily basis.

"Basically the road can't come soon enough, and we live with great anticipation once it's nearly built."

Benara financial controller Darren Shyne said the family-run business, which started 56 years ago, employed about 300 people and had 1500 customers across WA.



Mitchell Freeway southbound traffic. File picture

Mr Shyne said trucks "got stuck on the freeway every morning" so they also wanted it widened southbound between Hodges Drive and Hepburn Avenue.

Ms Saffioti said the State Government wanted the Federal Government, which promised \$35 million prior to the May election (<https://www.communitynews.com.au/joondalup-times/news/federal-election-2019-35m-election-pledge-for-mitchell-freeway/>), to provide more money for the project,

expected to cost about \$76 million.

"The Commonwealth has contributed 80 per cent of funds for other metropolitan road projects and we see this as no different," she said.

"This was an election commitment given by the Federal Government and they need to ensure they provide WA with its fair share of funding for this project."

The minister said the freeway extension was part of a suite of transport infrastructure improvements to support the growing outer northern suburbs.

"The freeway extension will alleviate pressure on the local road network, reduce travel times and improve safety and connectivity for people living and working in the region now and into the future," she said.

"The upgrade of Wanneroo Road is also well underway with construction on the new Wanneroo Road and Ocean Reef Road starting earlier this year.

"Other projects include the recently completed widening of Wanneroo Road between Joondalup Drive and Flynn Drive, and the Wanneroo Road and Joondalup Drive interchange and the duplication of Marmion Avenue, which are both currently under construction.

"Perth's north will undergo a significant transformation in coming years, with the Metronet Yanchep Rail Extension.

"We are spending a record amount on the northern suburbs."