

# Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridges Project



## See it taking shape!

Construction in the southern channel (Victoria Park side of Heirisson Island) of the Swan River started in November 2023. A Temporary Loadout Facility (TLO, similar to a jetty) was built out from the project's McCallum Park site. The TLO is used to transfer equipment and materials onto vessels and barges, which then transport them around the river for construction of the bridges.

Marine piling is underway, which is the process of installing piles into the riverbed to create a solid foundation for the bridges to be built upon.

Construction of the northern navigation channel (Perth side of Heirisson Island) is due to commence in early 2024. At the same time, embankment and abutment walls will start to be built.

Landscaping works, including construction of the new path network at McCallum Park, are also due to commence in the New Year, which will see the site boundary fence extended to enclose more of McCallum Park near the existing Causeway Bridge.

The project will pause over the Christmas break, from Sunday 24 December 2023, until Monday 1 January 2024 (inclusive). Security will be monitoring the project sites during this time.

Whether you are a path user, road user or river user, please always proceed with caution and adhere to signage throughout the area. We thank you for your patience and apologise in advance for any inconvenience.

## Information for river users

The northern navigation channel has an average of 25 vessels passing through it daily. With construction due to commence in this channel in early 2024, the project team has been engaging with commercial and recreational river users to raise awareness and inform of upcoming marine works.

The project team hosted a webinar for river users in December 2023, where they could learn more about the marine construction methodology and ask questions. A recording of the webinar can be viewed [here](#). River users can also expect to see informational signage about the project at riverside boat ramps around Perth and view the map illustrating the river works sites [here](#).



Figure 1: View of the new bridge from the river (concept only).

During marine works the northern channel will remain open, with spotter vessels escorting river users through the work zone to manage the flow of river traffic during construction. On occasion, this will involve the passage of river traffic being paused for a short time. The primary mechanism for communicating with all river users, inclusive of commercial vessels, will be through the Department of Transport's Notice to Mariners which is available [here](#).

We encourage river users to [subscribe](#) to project updates to keep up to date on project works. Standard working hours are currently between 7am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday, with marine works anticipated to be completed in both river channels in Spring 2024.

## MEG members are the first to view bridge deck segments at Civmec in Henderson

In October 2023, members of the Project's Matagarup Elders Group (MEG) were invited to tour Civmec's facility in Henderson, where the steel bridge deck segments are currently being fabricated. The deck segments are 22m to 42m in length. In early 2024 bridge deck segments will begin to be transported to the McCallum Park site by road.

The MEG has been instrumental in informing the bridges' design and ensuring that the cultural heritage values of the area are respected, protected, and celebrated. Through engagement with the MEG, we strive to ensure that together, we will deliver an iconic, culturally sensitive legacy project, that all stakeholders and community members can connect to with a sense of shared ownership and immense pride.



Figure 2: MEG members being shown through Civmec's worksite.



Figure 3: Group photo of MEG members at Civmec.

## Meet one of the trailblazing women building our project

In an industry dominated by men, one of the crane operators for the project is a trailblazing woman. Kiera sat down with the project's communications team to tell us about her journey in the construction industry.

**A crane operator isn't a common career choice for women, what inspired you?** "My Dad is my hero and the reason I am in the construction industry; I've always wanted to do what he does. My grandfather was also a rigger/crane operator in this industry." [Note: Kiera's Dad Bruce is the Construction Manager for the Project].



Figure 4 Kiera and her Dad Bruce on-site at McCallum Park.

**When and how did you start working in the construction industry?** "I currently work full-time as a crane operator. I'm in my early-30s and I've been working in the industry for 12 years. I started as a 'Peggy' (which is slang for a cleaner), for about a year on a construction site in the Pilbara. I could see more interesting tasks out in the field, so I kept asking and pestering people to let me out on-site and get involved in the work on the ground. Then I got an opportunity and landed a role as a TA (Trade Assistant), then a 'Dogger' (which is slang for a dogman), this involved slinging all types of loads mostly with a Franna crane (mobile crane) and directing crane operators. My first role as a crane operator was on a 20-tonne crane. Although I was nervous, I used the knowledge gained from 6 years of on-site experience to calm my nerves. From there I ventured into the bigger cranes including the hydraulic 80-tonne and the bigger crawler cranes and gained a lot more experience and confidence."

"The biggest crane I have operated is an 800-tonne crane. What I love most about my job is that every lift is different, it's not always the same. The wind, weather, the loads I lift, every day is different."

**What have you been doing on this Project?** "I've been on the Project for three months now and I'm currently operating a 280-tonne crawler crane, I've been involved in the assembly of the Jack Up Barge and the Flexy Float Barge, which are involved in supporting the marine works. I have also lifted the finger beams into position for the Temporary Load Out Facility, which were 75-tonne each, that was a good lift, I enjoy the complicated and heavy lifts."

**What most excites you about this Project?** "I'm most excited about lifting the bridge segments, particularly the boomerang pylon, as it will be the heaviest and longest radius lift of the job and an iconic piece of the bridges' design. I'm also looking forward to saying to my family, including my niece and nephews, 'I built that!'. When I was growing up, I'd be in the car, travelling around Perth with my dad and he'd point out buildings that he had built, and I thought, one day, I'd like to point to something and say, 'We built that.'"

**What advice would you give to other women thinking about entering the construction industry?** "It hasn't been easy, being a female in a male-dominated industry and breaking down stereotypes. I'm also young and quite [physically] small compared to a lot of people on a construction site. I've had some great mentors, and crane operators that have given me their time and taught me a lot. I've developed some great relationships by putting in the effort to listen and learn."

"My advice would be, to have a thick skin, don't take things personally, every day is a new day, don't hold grudges and be nice to everyone. Give it a go and you will be surprised what you can achieve if you push yourself to your limits. Don't quit on your first day. I'm seeing a lot more females coming into the industry from when I started, which is great to see."

## Project receives national award

The Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridges project took home the Built Environment Award at the **We Ride Australia Cycling Luminaries Awards** in Canberra in November! The team was nominated by WestCycle, a not-for-profit representative body for bike riders in WA, for the projects commitment to engaging with stakeholders on path detours and addressing a diverse range of concerns – from Aboriginal and ecological matters to economic, disability, and active transport considerations.



Figure 5 Federal MP for Swan Zaneta Mascarenhas accepting the award on behalf of the Alliance.

WestCycle Active Transport Manager Dr Georgia Scott said, "Perth has a lot of massive infrastructure projects going on at the moment that are causing a lot of negative impacts to the Principal Shared Path network. This project has really stood out for the care shown for bike riders through and around their construction site, to the extent that they have installed new, smooth concrete paths and a staffed boom gate that gives path users priority over work site vehicles. The team is doing a great job, and the award is well deserved."

**Thank you WestCycle!**



Figure 6 Cyclist traveling on detour ramp at Point Fraser.

## Premier Cook visits apprentices at Civmec

Premier Roger Cook together with Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport Rita Saffioti and Federal MP for Swan Zaneta Mascarenhas, recently visited Civmec in Henderson and met with apprentices working on the Project. All components of the bridges are being manufactured here in WA, supporting hundreds of local jobs.



Figure 7 Premier, Deputy Premier and Federal Member for Swan walking along a bridge deck segment with apprentices.

## We value your feedback

The Causeway Link Alliance, in a partnering relationship with Main Roads WA, values ongoing feedback about how we can best communicate with you about the project. All stakeholders and community members are invited to complete a survey to let us know how effective our communications are. 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](mailto: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](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/causeway-path)