

Mitchell Freeway Extension Hester Avenue to Romeo Road



Mitchell Freeway is being extended from Hester Avenue to Romeo Road to **bust congestion and improve connectivity** in Perth's rapidly growing north-west corridor. The \$232 million project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and the Western Australian Government.

Construction is well underway across the 5.6km freeway extension, with the road pavements, bridges and shared paths all starting to take shape.

The new freeway interchanges at Lukin Drive and Butler Boulevard are advancing, with the construction of bridge piers completed and decks being poured with concrete in preparation for pavement.

The rail line interface at the Lukin Drive interchange has brought unique challenges, resulting in the bridge beams being installed during nightly rail line closures, and multiple pumps used for concrete pours to avoid the overhead lines.

Landscaping commenced over winter, supported by mulch and topsoil collected and stored on site from when the works first started. The new pavements and landscaping have significantly reduced the amount of area exposed to wind and we expect a reduction in dust levels in summer.

Sections of noise walls are nearing completion, with all noise walls on residential boundaries under construction or completed.

A concrete panel and post noise wall has been constructed along Manasota Approach. Where required, the installation of acrylic panels on the top of the limestone block walls will commence in the coming months.

Did you know?

A total of 30 bridge beams have been installed, ranging in length from 24m to 36m and weighing 80 – 110 tonnes.

Works in progress

While the project has achieved several milestones in recent months, a lot of new works have also recently commenced. Highlights include:

- Installation of water services and drainage for the duplication of Wanneroo Road between Trian Road and Romeo Road.
- Construction starting on the new signalised intersection at Wanneroo Road and Romeo Road/Karoborup Road.
- Installation of pavements on the Butler Boulevard and Lukin Drive interchanges, which will continue through to the new year.
- Construction of Romeo Road to create a new east-west link between Wanneroo Road and Marmion Avenue, with the first pavements laid in October.
- The new roundabout and changes to the road alignment at Hester Avenue started in October and will continue into the new year.
- Works to complete the widening of Lukin Drive and local road tie-in connections are continuing.
- Tie-in works on the Mitchell Freeway northbound and southbound lanes, south of Hester Avenue has commenced.

The road bridge over rail on Romeo Road (delivered by METRONET's Yanchep Rail Extension Project) is also under construction. As neighbouring projects, both project teams are regularly communicating to align construction and delivery time frames.



Romeo Road bridge over rail



Panel and post noise wall on Manasota Approach



Lukin Drive interchange bridge



Fill transfer from METRONET

Working with the METRONET Yanchep Rail Extension

Progress towards achieving the project's sustainability targets continues to be enhanced with surplus sandy limestone material being delivered from METRONET's Yanchep Rail Extension.

The Mitchell Freeway Extension initially received 200,000 cubic metres of material, which created cost savings for both projects, as Yanchep Rail Extension avoided having to store excess material on site or private land, and Mitchell Freeway Extension minimised its need to acquire material from external sources.

The amount has recently increased to 450,000 cubic metres of material, to undertake earthworks for the future Romeo Road freeway interchange (to be constructed as part of a future freeway extension).

This agreement significantly reduces the carbon emissions associated with transporting material from across the Perth Metropolitan area.



First stage of landscaping completed



Developing sustainable design solutions

The project team is focused on innovative design solutions to benefit the environment and community.

LED lighting is being used throughout the project to reduce energy use and maintenance costs.

Design reviews have been undertaken to minimise the amount of vegetation clearing, particularly at Lukin Drive and Wanneroo Road.

A number of investigations are also underway on innovative sustainability initiatives. These include the use of EME2 pavement with crushed recycled concrete, to reduce asphalt thickness and deliver lower construction and maintenance costs.

The project is actively exploring the use of FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) compost to support project landscaping and the use of biotech matting to replace rock pitching. These will deliver better thermal outcomes and encourage plant growth to deliver better aesthetic outcomes.

Collaborating with Butler Primary School students and local artists

The inclusion of public art is an important element in the project's construction, with public art being included on the:

- Lukin Drive pedestrian and cyclist underpass
- Butler Boulevard pedestrian and cyclist underpass
- Two bridge walls at Lukin Drive and Butler Boulevard

Each piece of artwork has been designed by either school children from Butler Primary School, an Aboriginal artist or professional local Perth artists.

An experienced Public Art Coordinator was engaged to manage the creative art journey, and the project's Construction Reference Group has provided community feedback.

A challenge associated with public art on road infrastructure is the inability of road users to pause and admire the artwork when it is adjacent to a freeway with vehicles travelling at 100km/h.

In pedestrian and cyclist underpasses, artists have a greater scope to be creative and can provide more detail to cater for people who may wish to stop and admire the work.

The Lukin Drive underpass has taken inspiration from the adjacent Neerabup National Park. Below is an example of how an image sketched by Butler Primary School students has been translated into public art.



The Butler Boulevard underpass has developed from the relationship of the Whadjuk Noongar people to the area, reflecting the connection between the lake system that runs from Yellagonga Regional Park to Yanchep.



Butler Boulevard Underpass Public Art Design

The Lukin Drive and Butler Boulevard bridge walls have also taken their inspiration from the adjacent National Park, capturing representations of Banksia and Grevillea.

Opportunity to provide feedback

We are always interested to receive your feedback on how effective the project has been in communicating with you, answering your questions or responding to your concerns.

You can provide us your feedback by completing a short survey under the community tab – "Tell us what you think" on the project website at:

www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/mitchell-fwy-extension

Further Information

If you would like further information, have any questions or concerns, you can contact us at 138 138 or email: enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au

You can also subscribe to receive updates directly to your inbox by registering your email on the project's webpage: www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/mitchell-fwy-extension