

Construction Update

NorthLink WA - Northern Section Ellenbrook to Muchea

Change in construction schedule delays opening

It is taking longer than anticipated to finish the works on NorthLink WA northern section. We are sorry for the delay, especially when the road is so close to completion.

It has been decided to complete the final seal on the road surface now, instead of next summer as was originally planned.

Completing it now will avoid extensive disruption to road users next year and will ensure the road is fully complete when it opens.

While we do our best to estimate the completion date, sometimes big, complex projects go over time for a variety of reasons.

This extra work means Tonkin Highway to Muchea is expected to be open in late April 2020.

Final seal

The surface of the northern section is two-coat seal, which is laid differently to the asphalt that was used on the central and southern sections. Two-coat seal is a surface type commonly used on regional roads.

Between now and opening the team will lay the re-seal coat, sweep the road, roll it and apply the line-marking.

Our sealing crew will lay more than 680,000sqm of re-seal during this process.

Although this means the opening is delayed, it is better to get it right, rather than endanger lives or

inconvenience motorists and the freight industry with an unfinished road.

We want you to enjoy the road at the 110km/h speed it was designed for and with the final seal and all the safety features in place.

We look forward to rewarding your patience with a fast, safe and fully fit for purpose road.



Once complete, the new works will have:

- A dual carriageway between Maralla Road and Muchea
- Interchanges at Stock Road, Neaves Road and Brand Highway
- A deviation at Brand Highway to the north of Muchea, and
- Flyovers at Old Brand Highway, Muchea South Road and Ellen Brook.

This will provide motorists with a free-flowing dual carriageway between Ellenbrook and Muchea, improving safety and reducing driving times.

We'll keep you informed as we continue to make progress towards opening.

The \$1.02b NorthLink WA initiative is jointly funded by the Australian (\$821 million) and Western Australian (\$204 million) governments.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why has the opening of the Northern Section of NorthLink WA been delayed to late April?

While the highway and bridge works have been completed, there have been delays in completing interchange lighting and traffic barriers that are critical to the safety of the infrastructure.

This delay to the program has presented the opportunity to apply the final seal on the main alignment now instead of waiting until next summer.

In the long run, this will save time and inconvenience to road users by eliminating months of traffic management.

While we do our best to estimate the completion date, sometimes big, complex projects go over time for a variety of reasons.

Is it costing taxpayers much more with the delay?

It's a fixed price contract, it doesn't cost the taxpayer any more even if it takes longer than expected.

The contractor and MRWA have agreed a fixed price for the works.

Why can't you open Tonkin Highway in stages?

We have opened Tonkin Highway progressively as far as Ellenbrook.

Although the roads looks complete between Ellenbrook and Muchea, there is still work to do along the alignment.

The entire road is about to be resealed which means no vehicles can use it until this is complete.

Can you open the PSP ahead of the road?

Unfortunately not.

The construction team is still using the PSP to access various work sites.

It therefore remains part of the live construction site and cannot be opened for safety reasons.



Why can't you employ more people to finish the road quicker?

Unfortunately it is not as simple as hiring more people.

Many of the tasks left to complete are required to be completed sequentially.

That is, one task cannot be completed until the previous one is finished.

Each item must then be checked and certified.

There are several crews on site working on each task to complete it as quickly as possible.

What speed will the road be when it opens?

When Tonkin Highway opens the speed limit will be 110kmh from Ellenbrook.

Want more information?

For more information on the NorthLink WA northern section:

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Facebook NorthLink WA Community Group



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