John Holland is working in partnership with Main Roads to deliver the upgraded Tonkin Highway on NorthLink WA’s Southern Section.

Spring has sprung providing the perfect weather for construction activities, especially landscaping.

If you take a drive along Tonkin Highway you will see we have started to plant out road batters and drainage basins. You will also see a range of colourful noise walls rising from the ground and at the tops of bridges in all of their glory. To complement the noise walls we have some amazing urban design features in the pedestrian underpasses at Morley Drive and Collier Road. We are working hard to finish widening Tonkin Highway and complete the bridges which will provide road users with a free flowing driving experience with no traffic lights.

The Benara Road flyover is almost ready for traffic with the bridge deck prepared for asphalt and line marking, and the approach ramps nearing completion. We expect to see traffic on the flyover in early-mid October.

The completed section of the Tonkin Highway bridge over Morley Drive is open to traffic. The bridge beams for the second half of the bridge will be delivered and installed during the long weekend with completion of the bridge expected late November. When open, there will be three lanes of free-flowing traffic in each direction, and a large roundabout underneath at Morley Drive.

Works are progressing at Collier Road. In August, traffic started driving on the new realigned section of Collier Road and over the bridge. Works are underway to complete the new signalised intersection of Collier Road and Grey and Jackson Streets, and finalise construction of service roads providing access to local businesses.

Construction of Morley Drive northbound on-ramp

Major construction works are well underway to build the Morley Drive northbound on-ramp.

The team is currently working through challenging excavation, digging approximately six metres deep while working in close proximity to local residents and Hampton Park Primary School.

Construction Manager, Mark Beiers said the old underpass was demolished which allowed this major excavation to begin.

“We’re excavating at great depths, similar to the height of a two-storey building. We need to complete foundation preparation works before we can construct the retaining walls to build the new on-ramp which will also complete the last section of the new underpass,” Mark said.

“This is a challenging phase of work as we’re working within a small footprint and with large machinery.”

A 220 tonne crane will be used to install the precast MSE and buttress concrete walls which range from 1-5 metres high and from 60-220 metres long.

The Morley Drive northbound on-ramp will be opened to traffic in November.

A colourful design named ‘Wildflower Field: shadow and light on vegetation’, on bridge abutments and noise/screen walls will enhance the enjoyment of road users and act as a graffiti deterrent.
Unique design for the new underpass

The new pedestrian underpass at Hampton Park Primary School is well on its way to completion and will incorporate a unique design featuring the Year 6 students.

The NorthLink WA team has worked in collaboration with urban artist Margaret Dillon, and the Hampton Park Year 6 students to develop the design, titled ‘Shadow Play’ which features silhouettes of the students playing ball. This will then be translated into a series of images onto the walls of the underpass.

“We developed a design which could involve the school children and illustrate togetherness in a playful manner,” urban artist Margaret Dillon said.

“It was also important that the design link back to the overall southern section circular ‘Wildflower Field’ theme, with a complex design to discourage graffiti and an abstract method to ensure the children weren’t identified.”

The Year 6 students were selected to leave a lasting legacy for the community and commemorate their final year of primary school and the ‘Class of 2017’.

The new underpass replaces the old underpass and will maintain the public access link from the eastern side of Tonkin Highway to Hampton Park Primary School. The underpass is scheduled to open in Term 4, 2017.

First landscaping activities underway

Redlands Street is the first area to see the newest landscaping additions with planting in July. Over 10,000 tubestock plants have been planted including paper bark, rushes, sedges, bottlebrushes and banksia trees. Landscaping is also underway at Collier Road, Spencer Street, Cherry Court, Abbey Street and Broun Avenue.

All species planned for the southern section are locally found within the Swan Coastal Plain area and will display an array of red, blue, white, and yellow flowers between the months of June and December.

Once landscaping is complete, more than 35 hectares of the site will feature new higher ecological value vegetation, which is 2.5 hectares more than what was there previously.

In addition to increasing the sites’ vegetation, the amount of irrigated landscaping has been significantly reduced from 13,000 cubic metres to 5,500 cubic metres saving more than five million litres of water every year.

Leading the way on Sustainability

The NorthLink WA Southern Section design has achieved the second highest Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA) rating in Australia for its sustainability initiatives. Contractually, John Holland was required to achieve an ‘Excellent’ ISCA rating of 50 or greater, but the project team has achieved a ‘Leading’ rating of 93. This achievement reflects a great team effort to embrace ISCA’s sustainability requirements through initiatives such as minimising raw material use and adaptive lighting.

Slow down and drive safe

Construction of NorthLink WA requires changing road and traffic conditions to ensure works can be undertaken safely and with minimal disruption to road users and the local community. To ensure the safety of our workers, we also need drivers to take care. The safety of people working on the project is everyone’s responsibility. Please obey the reduced speed limits in the construction zone and make sure to leave plenty of room when driving past road workers. Your patience is appreciated during this process!

If you have any concerns or enquiries, please contact the southern section communications team on 1800 748 642 or info@northlinkwa.com.au

For more information visit www.northlinkwa.com.au

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