Tonkin Highway now provides a direct, freeway standard route from The Promenade in Ellenbrook through Gnangara Road, Reid Highway and Morley Drive, easing congestion and driver frustration.

The opening will bring much relief to residents in and around Ellenbrook, enabling quick access to Tonkin Highway and halving the previous 25 minute journey to Morley.

Dozens of local families and scout group members recently joined Minister for Transport, Hon Rita Saffioti, as part of a celebratory community cycling event on the new 4 metre-wide principal shared path (PSP).

The 10 km bike ride involved a stop at the newly constructed fauna bridge to interact with NorthLink WA project team members before the road and PSP were officially opened to the public.

Finishing works are still underway on the NorthLink WA central section so please pay careful attention to the new configuration and obey road signage.
“I’m thrilled to see the project come to fruition and amazed at some of the clever questions the students have asked me,” he said.

“It is important that these young people take ownership of their local parklands and get involved to nurture the longevity of their natural environment.”

The landscaping team from central section contractor Great Northern Connect (GNC) hit the ground running this winter making the most of the cooler conditions for planting. Now that spring has sprung, the evidence is already appearing as green shoots.

The central section landscape plan maximises local native species together with grass and parkland tree plant varieties.

After conducting a seed collection exercise prior to clearing, as well as purchasing seed, GNC donated the surplus seed to the Friends of Lightning Swamp.

More than 200 students from John Septimus Roe Anglican Community Primary School came out recently to help scatter the seeds, along with planting hundreds of seedlings at Lightning Park.

John Williams, President of the Friends of Lightning Swamp volunteer caretaker group coordinated the planting event at the park.

More than two million plants and 750kg of seed is being planted across the site, making it one of the largest landscaping tasks in Main Roads’ history.

Please give our plants a chance and DON’T drive on embankments

Local community benefits from surplus seed
Almost 25 km of pedestrian and cyclist paths in the central section are now improving accessibility for local cyclists and pedestrians.

Starting at Mitre Bend in Ellenbrook, the 4 metre-wide principal shared path (PSP) joins the PSP at Benara Road, built as part of the NorthLink WA southern section. The path connects with the PSP at Bayswater and continues along the railway line giving cycle access from Ellenbrook to the city. Eventually it will join with the northern section path network all the way to Muchea.

A section of PSP between Hepburn Avenue and Gnangara Road features smart lighting that illuminates when triggered by motion sensors and dims when not required.

The installation of the final precast concrete beam at the footbridge across Neaves Road was a major milestone.

Two huge cranes - one 500 tonne and one 450 tonne - were brought to site to lift the T-roff beams into place.

“This was a significant team effort involving all disciplines to safely plan and execute the achievement,” CPB Contractors Construction Manager Michael Spence said.

“The installation required a temporary closure of Neaves Road which was a first for the project and involved a 4.5 km detour between Neaves Road and Muchea South Road.

“A big thank you to the drivers who followed the traffic controllers’ directions on the night and proceeded safely past the works.”

The northern team has now installed 181 precast concrete bridge beams on the 12 bridges on the project, including the Neaves Road footbridge and a pedestrian underpass at Stock West Road.

The lightest beam weighed 116 tonnes and the heaviest 180 tonnes. If laid end to end, the beams would reach almost 4 km.

The next challenge for the bridge works will be planning and pouring the concrete for the bridge decks, starting with the bridge at Muchea South Road.

All eyes are looking north now that the southern and central sections of NorthLink WA are up and running.

Mind your head!

Now that the new bridges are in place in Bullsbrook and Muchea, it’s worth remembering to check safe vehicle and load heights.

- Neaves Road, interchange and footbridge - maximum permitted vehicle and load height = 5.6 m.
- Brand Highway bridge (near Great Northern Highway) - maximum permitted vehicle and load height = 5.6 m.
- Stock Road interchange - maximum permitted vehicle and load height = 6.2 m.

Main Roads has restrictions in place for vehicles exceeding 4.3 m in height, including the requirement to obtain written approvals in some circumstances.

Always check with Main Roads before heading out on your journey to ensure you won’t hit any obstacles.
People power gets landscaping task done in the north

Running its own wholesale nursery, Workpower has supplied 355 mature trees for the Brand Highway interchange.

“So far, more than 40 people have been inducted from Workpower to do landscaping work,” Tim Williamson, CPB Contractors Environment Manager said.

“It’s a massive undertaking with 720,000 tubes to be planted and 200kg of seed stock overall.”

CPB Contractors and NorthLink WA are pleased to provide meaningful employment opportunities for people with disability. According to WorkPower, these opportunities help them develop financial independence, confidence, and become active community members.

Community feedback is positive

To track the efficiency and effectiveness of our communications, NorthLink WA has engaged professional market research companies to survey local road users and monitor our progress throughout construction.

The highest ever rating of 98 per cent awareness of NorthLink WA was recorded recently, with 96 per cent of respondents feeling positive about the progress in the central section.

Most recent positive responses were around the time savings and lack of disruption, now that works are complete.

On the northern section, almost 85 per cent of respondents were happy with the information they had received.

The largest proportion - more than 90 per cent - say they prefer to receive information about the project via email.

Our Facebook Group has grown to almost 4,000 members. This has proved to be a popular communication channel helping local residents and other stakeholders to stay informed and have a say on all things NorthLink WA.

Overall, people surveyed reported they are keen for the road to open so they can enjoy the benefits the free-flowing highway will eventually bring.

If you have any feedback for the NorthLink WA team, you are welcome to contact us at info@northlinkwa.com.au or join our Facebook Group.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Web: www.northlinkwa.com.au
Phone: 138 138
Email: info@northlinkwa.com.au
Register for regular updates: info@northlinkwa.com.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/northlinkwa

Workpower, a not-for-profit WA organisation dedicated to creating opportunities for people with disability, has been selected to implement the landscaping installation contract for the NorthLink WA northern section.