Richard Sellers (Commissioner of Main Roads), Greg Heylen (BGC Contracting) and Rob Wallwork (Laing O’Rourke Australia Construction) sign the contract for construction of NorthLink WA central section.

Great Northern Connect, a joint venture between BGC Contracting Pty Ltd and Laing O’Rourke Australia Construction Pty Ltd has been awarded the second of three construction contracts for the $1.12 billion NorthLink WA.

The central section will provide extra road capacity to Perth’s north-east — a priority for Ellenbrook with an expected population of 47,000 by 2031.

The announcement follows a rigorous state and federal environmental approval process.

A Public Environmental Report (PER) was prepared for the new 37 km link from the intersection of Reid and Tonkin Highways to Muchea in accordance with the Western Australian Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

“We would like to thank local environmental groups who worked with the project team to identify and mitigate environmental impacts of NorthLink WA,” Main Roads Senior Project Director NorthLink WA, Rob Arnott said.

“It is important that we maximise sustainability not only through being sensitive to the environment, but also through economic and social responsibility.”

All works will be carefully monitored and managed to ensure Great Northern Connect meets the strict environmental conditions agreed for the project.

$1.12b
The combined value of NorthLink WA funded by both the Australian ($894 million) and State ($223 million) Governments.
Sustainability in action as construction begins on southern section

Sustainability is a top priority on NorthLink WA and Main Roads’ delivery programs, striving to improve the sustainability of their design and construction solutions to achieve an ‘excellent’ Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia rating.

Working collaboratively with Main Roads, southern section (Guildford Road to Reid Highway) contractor John Holland is developing sustainability initiatives in design, procurement and construction phases.

Sustainability Manager Patrick Illot said there were many sustainability initiatives to be implemented as the project progressed.

Sustainability means achieving positive environmental, economic and social outcomes. Delivery contractors are required to develop initiatives that address project-specific issues such as materials use, waste, community engagement and water quality.

“What we are prioritising is raised by the Community Reference Group including the tree canopy, stormwater quality, improving active transport options and climate change adaptation,” he said.

“Compared to earlier designs, additional areas of vegetation and trees are being retained to benefit the local community from an ecological and landscaping perspective.”

Patrick said the final landscaping solution would maximise the use of local native flora species.

“We are aiming to enhance the visual amenity for road users and residents, providing pleasant views and screening unattractive features.

“We will reuse existing vegetation and topsoil as much as possible and address some of the degraded and weed-impacted areas that were widespread.”

Other sustainability initiatives being undertaken on site include:

- solar powered lighting and CCTV cameras at construction compounds, reducing demand for electricity from generators and the mains power
- using local groundwater for construction purposes, reducing demand for treated and pumped water from the mains
- temporary access ways to Hampton Park Primary School allowing ongoing safe access for students throughout the construction phase
- new earthwork machinery that meets stringent emission standards reducing fuel consumption and air emissions.

Slow down and enjoy the ride - the benefits will be worth it.

As you drive through or around the NorthLink WA roadworks, you may encounter speed restrictions or detours.

Safety is our number one priority so it is important that you follow the signage and stick to the speed limit.

“We understand it’s frustrating for drivers, particularly when they can’t see any activity happening,” Main Roads Manager Road Safety David Moyer said.

“But there is always a good reason behind any detours or speed restrictions, based on maintaining the safety of both the workers and the road users.”

The road lanes may have narrowed or the road conditions may have changed - but you may not be aware of this. Temporary road surfaces also have a different speed limit requirement.

Utilities such as drainage pipes, electrical and telecommunication lines are often hidden from view.

When roads are widened, many of these have to be relocated and this takes time.

The contractor may not always be visible, but there still needs to be a reduced speed limit for safety reasons.

When NorthLink WA is finished, the benefits of less congestion and a free-flowing journey will be enjoyed by the whole community.

Speed restrictions and temporary detours around work sites are short term pain for long term gain.

Remember to build in extra time for your journey during road works or take an alternative route.

What’s Happening on the Southern Section?

Work is well underway to upgrade Tonkin Highway between Guildford Road and Reid Highway.

The first major change local residents and road users will have seen is temporary intersections at Benara and Collier Roads allowing traffic to continue to travel through the area while the Benara Road flyover and Collier Road interchange are built.

The upgrade of the Benara and Collier Roads and Mosley Drive intersections will ease congestion on Tonkin Highway by providing a direct, free-flowing route through the area.

Support works include modifying drainage, realigning the existing highway, relocating services like electricity and gas and installing noise walls between the highway and residential properties.

Central section set to begin work in 2017

Great Northern Connect will continue NorthLink WA’s vision and achieve its objectives by:

- providing an efficient alternative freight route
- improving access to Ellenbrook
- increasing network capacity to ease traffic congestion on local roads
- improving road safety with freeway standard roads
- contributing to potential future employment opportunities by connecting to current and future industrial areas
- connecting communities with safe, separate pedestrian and cycling facilities

The new cycling and pedestrian facilities which include a four-metre wide shared path will continue from the new Reid Highway and Tonkin Highway interchange connecting the community to Ellenbrook.

There will be a freeway–freeway interchange at the junction of Reid Highway and Tonkin Highway eliminating one of the state’s most dangerous intersections.

Flyovers will be built at Marshall Road and Beechboro Road to allow free-flowing access and improved safety.

Hepburn Avenue and The Promenade will be realigned into a roundabout-style interchanges, and the Gnaragara Road interchange will have free-flow ramps to cater for major traffic movements.

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Northern section contract update

CPB Contractors are the preferred proponent to construct the third and final section of NorthLink WA. Negotiations are underway to finalise the award of the contract early in 2017.

The northern section extends Tonkin Highway from Ellenbrook to Muchea, including new junctions at Stock Road, Neaves Road and Muchea, with bridges over local roads, railways and Ellen Brook.

This section will provide extra road capacity to Perth’s north-east to support the growing population of Ellenbrook which is expected to grow to 47,000 by 2031.

Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-2017 with completion by mid-2019.
Community involvement

The southern section Construction Reference Group (CRG) has met five times since construction began in June. Feedback is always welcome and the group has made a positive contribution.

Expressions of interest are now open for community members to nominate for the central section CRG.

Once the northern section contract is finalised, a CRG will be established to allow representatives from this area to provide input into the design and construction.

This group will continue the work of the northern Community Reference Group that worked with us during project development.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE CENTRAL SECTION CONSTRUCTION PHASE?

A Construction Reference Group is being established for the central section (Reid Highway to Ellenbrook). Individuals or community group members who have an interest in the project are invited to nominate.

For more information call 138 138 or email info@northlinkwa.com.au.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

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Email: info@northlinkwa.com.au
Register for regular updates: info@northlinkwa.com.au