For the past three months Tonkin Highway users have been enjoying three lanes of free-flowing traffic between Guildford Road and Reid Highway with no traffic lights at Collier Road, Morley Drive or Benara Road.

During this time you may also have noticed the attractive streetscape that is starting to form as the thousands of plants and trees we have planted start to grow. This includes a number of Balgas (Grass Trees) at the Morley Drive roundabout which were removed during clearing and cared for until project completion when they could be replanted.

Another key highlight is the new four metre-wide principal shared path which provides a continuous path for pedestrians and cyclists to travel away from road traffic. The new path is a significant addition to the Perth walking and cycling networks and includes amazing artwork in the underpasses and an interpretive signage trail highlighting heritage information along the route.

Finishing touches will continue over the coming months along with installation of three new Variable Message Signs (VMS) which will provide road users with real time traffic information. Construction of the footings for the new VMS is underway with the new signs to be up and running by the end of the year.

Thank you to the local community

Completion of the southern section is the result of almost two and a half years of work. Main Roads and John Holland sincerely thanks road users and the local community for their patience during this time.

We would also like to extend a big thank you to our Community Reference Group (CRG) members for being a voice in the community, helping us to address stakeholder issues during construction and helping us share project information with the wider community. The CRG’s passion for the local area was an inspiration to the project team and we are very thankful for the local perspective and insight members provided us.

Did you know?

NorthLink WA Southern Section involved the placement of nearly 190,000 tonnes of asphalt, more than 42 kilometres of permanent concrete barriers, around 18 kilometres of wire rope barriers, 4 kilometres of guard rail and 8 kilometres of noise and screen walls. This was undertaken while managing over 70,000 vehicle movements every day.
Excellence Awards

NorthLink WA Southern Section wins Iconic Engineering Excellence Award

NorthLink WA Southern Section was successful at the WA Engineering Excellence Awards hosted by Engineers Australia in July. The project took out one of six prestigious Iconic Engineering awards.

“Tjyllyungoo’s artwork was blessed in a Smoking Ceremony led by Aboriginal Elder Representatives Barry MacGuire and Troy Bennell who paid respect to traditional custodians and ancestors. The ceremony included Welcome to Country which acknowledged and paid respect to the continuing cultural/spiritual practices of Bibbulmun people. Through song, stories and the burning of native vegetation collected from nearby, Barry and Troy communicated and shared the energy that has always travelled with them and the project team to keep them safe.

The project team is proud of being involved in promoting Bibbulmun Whudjuk cultural heritage and being able to share Tjyllyungoo’s stories. NorthLink WA Senior Project Director Rob Arnott said he has been heartened by the enthusiasm of the team to respect culture and the environment and the artwork is a powerful way to communicate to audiences of different backgrounds.

“I hope that people using the new path take the opportunity to slow down, admire the artwork and connect with the land and our heritage” he said.

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The striking artwork is painted in the underpass and surrounding facia walls. We encourage you to go for a walk or bike ride and have a look!

Preservation of Bibbulmun Whudjuk Heritage

Have you seen the spectacular and vibrant artwork by Noongar/Yammatji artist Tjyllyungoo (Lance Chadd) in the underpass at Collier Road?

The underpass is close to an archaeological site where significant traces of past human activity have been identified. Creating artwork was a way of acknowledging and celebrating this past and present connection of Aboriginal people to the land and ensuring this cultural knowledge is shared with future generations.

Tjyllyungoo’s design is an artistic representation of the found artefacts and their traditional use. It also depicts travel and marriage in the Bibbulmun Lore (Law) which only permits legal marriage between the two moieties of Munartjmat (White Corellas) and Wardongmat (Crows).

“The Bibbulmun Lore of marriage ensured Aboriginal people’s survival and safe lineage over thousands of years. My design represents ‘Wardong’ entering from the south end and flying North and ‘Munartj’ entering from North end and flying south. The movement of the design synchronises with the sites multi-purpose travel, also representing significant cultural knowledge and heritage, travelling through time. My design also features Yonga (Kangaroos) which were an important source of food and warmth. The ‘Boya’ (Quartz), ‘Chert’ and ‘Wilgee’ (Red Ochre) colours of the artefacts found at the site are reflected in my artwork ” artist/Elder Tjyllyungoo said.

“I am very grateful to Main Roads and John Holland for both providing me with an opportunity to create a design that respectfully and accurately reflects and promotes our Bibbulmun Whudjuk heritage and for supporting important cultural protocol of engagement throughout the project. I feel very honoured and proud to have seen my artwork of significant connection to place come to life by the team of Aboriginal painters from Birdiya pty ltd. They did such a wonderful job.

I would really like to see more of these opportunities given directly to our people that can support further development of professional Bibbulmun teams to promote and share our cultural history.”

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The project was judged on its significance as an outstanding achievement in engineering and the invaluable contribution engineering makes to the economy, community and the environment. Receiving this award acknowledges the effort everyone has put into delivering a high calibre of engineering and an outstanding project outcome. A great way to finish this iconic project.

Collier Road underpass