Northern section opening date set for February

The project team can confirm that Tonkin Highway from Ellenbrook to Muchea will open in early February 2020. The date puts safety first as a key objective prior to opening the road.

Slightly later than expected, the delay will ensure the road is safe for all at the time of opening. In particular, we need to complete livestock fencing, traffic barriers and lighting before the road is opened to traffic. Works are also continuing at pace to enable completion of local roads and the Principal Shared Path.

The February opening date will also avoid having extensive and inconvenient traffic management in place over the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

Connecting at Ellenbrook with the NorthLink WA central section, which opened in August, the northern section includes:

- Dual carriageway between Maralla Road and Muchea
- Interchanges at Stock Road, Neaves Road and Brand Highway
- Deviation at Brand Highway
- Flyovers at Muchea South Road, the railway and Ellenbrook.

A massive amount of work has gone into NorthLink WA since it started and many West Australians will benefit from this new addition to the road network.

When complete, the northern section will provide a free-flowing dual carriageway between Ellenbrook and Muchea, taking the majority of heavy traffic away from Great Northern Highway and improving journey times and safety.

Current progress

A key milestone has been reached on the project with the completion of the road surface for the north and south-bound carriageways from Ellenbrook to Muchea.

A concerted effort to ensure the application of prime and seal, and asphalt, to the road sub-base, has seen this key milestone achieved before Christmas.

Road surfaces are also complete at the Stock Road West interchange at Bullsbrook and the Brand Highway interchange and Brand Highway deviation at Muchea.

The 12 bridges and one underpass on the project are also largely finished, with only minor works remaining on the bridge decks.

With the arrival of summer, landscaping has finished for 2019, with more than 500,000 tube stock planted, more than 200kg of seed and more than 350 mature trees planted.

Additional landscaping works will be carried out next winter, to take advantage of the cooler weather and rains.

The $1.02b NorthLink WA initiative is jointly funded by the Australian ($821 million) and Western Australian ($204 million) governments.
Early 2020 will see the final traffic changes for the northern section, including Neaves Road (pictured).

Final traffic changes

As the final touches are put on the works, there will be some traffic changes required to ensure the safety of workers and motorists. Keep an eye out for:

- Muchea South Road - single lane closures under the bridge,
- Great Northern Highway - a deviation will be required near the new Road Train Assembly Area
- Brand Highway Deviation – some single lane closures will be implemented at the tie-in for the new road deviation.
- Neaves Road – intermittent single lane closures will be required and traffic will be moved from the southern carriageway to the northern carriageway at the interchange.
- Local roads—cul-de-sacs are under construction on local roads, please drive carefully and follow the directions of traffic controllers.

As dates and times of these works are finalised, further details will be provided to stakeholders via email updates and on our Facebook page.

Christmas at NorthLink WA

The northern section site offices will close on Friday 20 December 2019 and will reopen on Thursday 2 January 2020. The site will be secured and dust control products applied before the closure.

During the shutdown there will be a reduced crew on site to continue critical works and maintenance. A particular focus will be ensuring that dust management is maintained during the break and water carts will be on site to address any issues that arise.

The Project Info Line and email address will continue to be monitored during the break.

The NorthLink WA northern section project team would like to thank everyone for their support and patience during the works this year. We wish you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

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We now have more than 4,000 members on our NorthLink WA Facebook group. Stay up to date with upcoming works online by joining the group.
Search NorthLinkWA Community Group on Facebook, or visit our page at www.facebook.com/groups/NorthLinkWA. We look forward to you joining us for all the latest updates.

Want more information?
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