

# Mitchell Freeway Southbound Upgrade

## Noise mitigation

### How do we manage noise mitigation?

Noise impacts from new or upgraded roads are managed in accordance with the Western Australian Planning Commission State Planning Policy 5.4 *Road and Rail Transport Noise and Freight Considerations in Land Use Planning* (SPP).

The Policy is considered by Main Roads when major upgrades are developed and delivered for construction.

### What is a noise wall?

Noise walls are physical barriers, typically made using concrete panels, that are installed on major construction projects to reduce noise levels for residential properties adjacent to main roads with high traffic volumes.

They are provided where noise modelling shows that residential properties are likely to experience high levels of traffic noise in proximity to the project boundary, as defined in the SPP.

Noise walls are not provided where commercial or public open spaces interface the road corridor.

### How does a noise wall work?

Noise walls are installed between the road and residential properties, depending on where it will be most effective, based upon a site's attributes and constraints.

It improves residential amenity by forcing sound waves to travel around the edges of the walls, reducing direct noise experienced by adjoining residential properties.

Additional key benefits are that the wall provides privacy screening for properties that are exposed to the road, and a barrier that blocks the majority of particulates from vehicle emissions.

### How is location and height determined?

Noise modelling is undertaken by a qualified independent consultant using equipment to record the existing noise levels from the road as a baseline for forecasting future noise levels.

The noise model takes into account factors such as road geometry and topography, vehicle types, proposed traffic speed, future traffic volumes, road surfacing, height of the new road and the distance between the road and the properties.

### Who will be responsible for maintenance once the wall is constructed?

Main Roads is responsible for the structural maintenance of noise walls. If a wall is required on a property boundary, the existing boundary fence may be removed upon agreement with the resident, and replaced by the noise wall.

If a wall is on a property boundary, maintenance of the wall on the property side is the owner's responsibility.

### Will there be landscaping at noise walls?

If there is sufficient space and width from a maintenance perspective, landscaping will be provided, in consultation with residents and the community.

### Post project noise monitoring

Noise monitoring will be undertaken approximately six months after project completion to confirm the targeted average noise levels have been achieved.

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