

# Swan River Crossings Project



Planning and development is continuing on the Swan River Crossings Project, which will see the replacement of the Fremantle Traffic Bridge and construction of a new rail bridge.

The rail and traffic bridges that connect Fremantle and North Fremantle are critical crossing points for the wider WA community. At least 24,000 vehicles use the traffic bridge every day.

This project is one of the most complex and challenging projects ever undertaken by Main Roads, involving road, passenger and freight rail, maritime, pedestrians and cyclists, heritage and environmental considerations.

Once completed, the Swan River Crossings will consist of a new traffic bridge, a new rail bridge and separated pedestrian and cyclist facilities.

## Alliance team

Main Roads has this week appointed a contractor to deliver the Swan River Crossings project. Laing O'Rourke Australia Construction, Arup Australia and WSP Australia will form an Alliance with Main Roads to guide the project into the next stages of alignment investigation, detailed design and construction.

Leading architectural firm Woods Bagot and a heritage consultant have been included in the Alliance team to prioritise heritage interpretation, urban landscape and design for this significant project.

## Community feedback

An extensive community consultation program has been underway for the Swan River Crossings Project since August 2020. More than 300 people have taken part in the online survey, 150 have attended community events and we have delivered more than a dozen briefings and presentations to community groups and stakeholders.

In response to community feedback, we held two alignment forums with local stakeholder and community groups to provide an opportunity for people to discuss the proposed location of the new bridges with Main Roads, Department of Transport, Fremantle Ports and the Public Transport Authority.

While the preferred alignment initially had a new traffic bridge to the east of the Fremantle Traffic Bridge, in direct response to community feedback, the Alliance team will further investigate options to build between the existing road and rail bridges before a final location for the new bridges is determined.

A key issue raised during community consultation included the current condition of the Fremantle Traffic Bridge and the impact on navigational safety. For further information please read our Fact Sheet at [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au).

### Online survey outcomes

The Swan River Crossings Project MySay Transport online survey recorded more than 3,800 visits to the project page and more than 300 people took part in the survey. The outcomes of the survey are available on the project website at [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au).

The feedback gathered from the survey has been a key part in understanding stakeholder and community needs and expectations for the project.

### Aboriginal engagement

The Swan River is a mythological site of significance to the Noongar people. Any impacts to the river are generally considered to have an impact on the mythological site. Ongoing consultation will continue with Whadjuk Noongar representatives to ensure that there is minimal impact on the Aboriginal heritage during construction.

Consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders was delayed due to the COVID-19 restrictions. However, following a meeting with the Whadjuk Working Group back

in October, two workshops were held with Aboriginal Elders in November. The workshops captured an understanding of their unique and fascinating stories and ideas on how to interpret heritage and cultural context within the design of the new crossings and the landscape. The Elders are keen to be involved as the project progresses.

### The Heritage Interpretation Plan

The Fremantle Traffic Bridge is the site of four previous road bridges since European settlement and will continue to be an important crossing point of the river.

The Alliance Team will progress a Heritage Interpretation Plan that will be informed by the consultation with Aboriginal groups and the broader community undertaken to date. The objectives and guiding principles informing the interpretation outcomes include revealing the history and cultural significance of the site to maximise opportunities for future place activation, integrating the stories into the new landscape to celebrate the history, and providing clear strategies to guide development.

“Heritage is a living thing, and is about integrating new and old. We mustn’t think heritage started in 1939.”

### In River works

You may have noticed some action on the water during December. Divers and support vessels were in the river upstream and downstream of the Fremantle Rail and Traffic Bridges and the Stirling Bridge conducting environmental surveys and investigations. The surveys measured sediment, swell and current movements

and will inform the associated statutory approvals process and upcoming geotechnical investigations. This more extensive phase of in-river surveys is expected to continue to the end of June 2021.

### Sustainability outcomes

The project is aspiring to achieve Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA) ratings at the Planning, Design and As Built phases and contribute to improved sustainability outcomes. The sustainable principles focus on environmental, social, economic and cultural considerations.

### What’s happening next?

Community and stakeholders will be involved throughout 2021 and 2022. We will provide updates and discuss the potential impact of the project on surrounding local roads and river. We will seek input into other key project outcomes including, but not limited to, the urban landscape and design elements, heritage interpretation, and connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.

The project aims to deliver improved safety for road users, modern standard pedestrian and cycling facilities, increased rail efficiencies, improved river navigation, improved water flows and acknowledgment of the history of this place as a crossing point of the Swan River.

The timeline below outlines the project process.

### Further information

Construction of the bridge is anticipated to start in late 2021, and will take approximately two years to complete.

For further information and to subscribe for project updates, please visit [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au) and search ‘Swan River Crossings’ or contact 138 138.



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