

Tonkin Gap Project and Associated Works

The Tonkin Gap Alliance team of 200+ engineers, contractors and crew have been working hard to deliver the long-anticipated upgrades to Tonkin Highway.



Additional lanes on Tonkin Highway in both directions – this will mean there will be a total of three lanes and an emergency lane in each direction. No more infamous Tonkin Highway bottleneck!



Shared path connectivity – cyclists will soon be able to ride seamlessly from Dunreath Drive in Redcliffe to Muchea using the upgraded shared path.



Increased safety entering/exiting Tonkin Highway – Guildford Road and Great Eastern Highway interchanges are being upgraded to improve driver safety.



Upgraded Redcliffe Bridge – a new bridge to provide additional lanes of traffic and moving the shared path below the bridge to maximise safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

While our crews deliver these upgrades to the community, there will be road closures, night works and other construction impacts in the project area – but don't worry, we will keep you updated. Follow us on Facebook 'Tonkin Gap Project' to find out the latest information on our works.

UPCOMING WORKS

Mid 2021

- MEL Broun Avenue bridges - construction starts
- MEL Marshall Road Dive Structure - construction starts
- First launch of Redcliffe Bridge segment
- Great Eastern Highway interchange upgrade starts

Late 2021

- MEL Morley Drive bridge work starts
- Victoria Street Bridge - construction begins
- Pier protection and deflection wall works completed for MEL
- Morley rail bridges commence

Mid 2022

- New launch bridge over the Swan River (Redcliffe Bridge) complete
- Guildford Road bridges complete
- Railway Parade bridges complete
- Dunstone Road bridges complete
- Southern Dive structure for MEL complete

Late 2022

- Late -2022
- Guildford Road interchange upgrade complete
- Great Eastern Highway interchange complete
- Traffic permanently shifted onto realigned Broun Avenue

Ready, steady, go for the Redcliffe bridge launch

Like Pinocchio's nose, the new Redcliffe bridge will grow longer and longer as segments are incrementally launched across the river.

The construction method, also used on the Mandurah bridge and the Mount Henry bridge, will reduce the impact to the Swan River (Derbarl Yerrigan).

Bridge segments are constructed on site and launched across the Swan River from the south-west side of Redcliffe Bridge. During the next few months, you can expect to see the bridge segments move up to 18 metres every 2-3 weeks.

The new and old bridges combined will accommodate ten lanes of traffic on top, with a shared cycle and pedestrian path underneath.

We aim to have you driving on the new lanes and bridge late next year.

Alliance Director Peter Hopfmueller said the team had gone through many

stages of approvals in the past six-months to finally get the go ahead from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), to start construction.

"This work at the Swan River has many challenges, and our team is always striving for, and delivering excellent results," he said.

"We continue to work with the DBCA and the community throughout the project and look forward to opening the new bridge to traffic."

Working collaboratively with the community and other stakeholders, we have considerably reduced our impact on the Swan River. Measures include preserving vegetation on the riverbank, involving marine mammal observers, employing Whadjuk Heritage Monitors to observe the works in and near the river, water quality testing and environmental site visits with the DBCA.



Environment team members Amber and Todd taking water samples from the river

For more information on the construction of the Redcliffe Bridge visit <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/projects-initiatives/projects/metropolitan/tonkin-gap/#whatshappening>

Free-flowing access on the way for commuters

If you sit at the lights at Great Eastern Highway waiting to join Tonkin Highway northbound, the new loop ramp will be welcome news for you.

Part of Selby Park has always been reserved under the State Government's Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) for the ramp. For now, it is being used by the project team to work in. At the end of the project, a substantial portion will be returned to the community.

"We understand the importance of Selby Park to the local community," Community & Stakeholder Engagement Manager Fiona Bell said.

"Before we started construction, we set up a working group with community and City of Belmont representatives so we could get a better understanding of residents' concerns and try to address them.

"We will continue to have open dialogue with residents and make sure that we



keep as much of the park available as we can."

In coming months, work in this area will include construction of the new ramp and pedestrian bridges, including the new

Victoria Street Bridge and widening of Great Eastern Highway underpass. By late this year, we are aiming to have traffic on the new exit ramp from Tonkin Highway northbound to Great Eastern Highway.

Traditional Owners lead heritage monitoring at the Derbarl Yerrigan



Recognition, respect and inclusion of Aboriginal people and culture, is a key focus area of the Tonkin Gap Project. Archaeologists and Whadjuk Noongar Traditional Owners have been an integral part of investigating the project area and identifying heritage sites prior to construction.

Two historically significant scar trees and the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) were identified as culturally significant sites.

Noel Morich, a Whadjuk Noongar Elder and Director of the South West Land and Sea Council (SWALC) participated in the project's heritage survey and was engaged as a heritage monitor to oversee the works in, and near, the Swan River.

"I was selected by the Whadjuk Working Party which consists of 21 different families, to represent my family on the project," Noel said.

"Each day I worked on the project I really felt supported by the Tonkin Gap team and the piling crew, everyone was really welcoming and open minded when it came to learning about the Derbarl Yerrigan and the significance of the site.

"We also had the opportunity to train up some of our young people. That's what we need to do, train them up and get them involved in monitoring so we can ensure we pass our knowledge, experiences and stories on to the next generation."

Structures lead Sam Collins said that he was impressed with the efforts of his team to learn about culture and make the most of the knowledge of the heritage monitors when they were available.

"After we had our throwing of sand ceremony at the launch event, some of the crew would go out before the shift and throw sand into the river to let the Wagyl know that we were working in the area," Sam said

"Having Noel and the other monitors onsite was really valuable, and I think the crew all learned a bit more about Aboriginal culture and history."

It's bridge city at Guildford Road interchange



There are 60 bridge beams to be installed for the four new bridges over Railway Parade and Guildford Road - the biggest being 35 metres long and weighing 135 tonnes.

The area under the bridge at Guildford Road is a hive of activity with construction of new bridge footings, piers and abutments, concrete pours and traffic management for intermittent lane closures.

Things are only going to get busier with the first bridge beam lift expected to happen October this year.

The first area to be completed will be the new southbound lanes between Collier Road and Guildford Road, with the bridge works expected to be finished mid-next year. Traffic will then be able to use the new lanes and bridges.

"Traffic has already switched onto the temporary ramps at Guildford Road and we've stated building the new ramps and underpasses for the new principal shared path," Construction Director Jonathan Lestone said.

"Once the bridges on Railway Parade and Guildford Road are built, we can open the new lanes for commuters."

The upgrade will improve traffic flow, safety and road geometry.

Final piece of the PSP puzzle



Cyclists and pedestrians will be treated to a fully integrated and connected shared path connecting Gateway, south of Dunreath Drive and joining the Northlink WA network starting at Railway Parade. The shared path upgrades are part of a vision to make WA a place where riding is a safe, connected, convenient and a widely accepted form of transport.

Construction and Design Interface Manager Dirk Baumgartel said that the design phase of the Principal Shared Path (PSP) network was nearly finished.

"Our design team has been working incredibly hard to deliver a modern and integrated shared path design that allows safe commutes for both pedestrians and cyclists," Dirk said.

"The path under Redcliffe Bridge will be 4.6m wide taking into account future expected use and safety for both pedestrians and cyclists."

The construction timeline of the project has also been carefully planned to reduce impacts on path users and minimise detours where possible.

For example, Victoria Street Bridge in Redcliffe will be built next to the existing bridge, ensuring access over

Tonkin Highway is maintained during construction.

Some of the highlights of the PSP upgrades include:

- New Victoria Street Bridge – a wider and safer bridge for the community, especially school students accessing nearby schools.
- Moving the shared path on Redcliffe Bridge below road level - eliminating the interface between path users and vehicles.
- Wide underpasses under Guildford Road – at 6m wide, these will be some of the widest underpasses in Perth.
- Safe connections through Selby Park – in discussions with the community we minimised the interface between commuter cyclists and park users.
- Community areas under Redcliffe Bridge – community hubs for place making under the bridge.

While we await these highly sought-after upgrades, closures and detours are unavoidable. To keep up to date with detours that might affect you, visit our website.

Building Broun Avenue Bridge

The new 60-metre-wide, 77-metre-long and 8-metre-high Broun Avenue bridge will support four lanes of traffic and an integrated bus interchange, allowing for safe and easy transfers between bus and train services.

Tonkin Gap Alliance MEL Delivery Manager Kevin Garry said the bridge would be a huge structure once complete.

"The width of the bridge will be almost three times its current size. Once we have finished the bridge, the Public Transport Authority contract team will come in and start to build the bus interchange and train station," Kevin said.

"There is a lot of detailed planning and engineering going in to delivering this infrastructure with minimal disruption to the local community and road users. I am pretty excited to be working on the project."

Work has already begun with footings and abutments, and four piers in the median for the southern section of the bridge which will be the bus interchange in the final design.

Eight pre-cast bridge beams will be installed on top of the abutments and piers during two weekends. Tonkin Highway will need to be closed for the installation which we expect to be towards the end of this year.

Early next year, traffic will be switched temporarily onto the new bus bridge, and the existing Broun Ave bridge will be deconstructed. We'll need to close Tonkin Highway again during this work.

The remaining section of the bridge is twice the size of the first section with nine piers in the median, and 18 bridge beams. Work on this section will start in the first half of 2022.

Towards the end of 2022, traffic will be switched to the new final alignment, and the bridge will be handed over to the Public Transport Authority to build the bus interchange and train station.

Vehicles, as well as pedestrian and cyclist access will be maintained across the bridge during the entire construction.



Talkin' Tonkin Video Series

Don't miss the Talkin' Tonkin video series which is now live on our Facebook Page. We'll be giving you an inside look on the project site, providing updates on key milestone activities and introducing you to some of the team. You can find us on Facebook by searching 'Tonkin Gap Project' or by following the link - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tonkingap/>