

# Tonkin Highway Extension Thomas Road to South Western Highway



We are extending Tonkin Highway from Thomas Road to South Western Highway south-east of Mundijong, creating a high standard north-south transport link in Perth's south-eastern corridor.

The project is jointly funded by the Australian (\$404 million) and Western Australian (\$101 million) Governments.

Extensive planning and development work is well underway to confirm the scope, and progress various approvals to allow for road construction. Procurement is also underway, along with industry engagement.

Geotechnical works, site investigations, groundwater modelling, traffic and noise modelling assessments, and stakeholder consultation are underway. The urban design and landscape framework is also progressing.

All this work will inform the detailed project scope, which is expected to be finalised during 2021, in conjunction with procurement.

## Traffic modelling

The results from recent traffic monitoring activities have been loaded into traffic models in order to assess the:

- likely growth and redistribution of traffic to the Tonkin Highway Extension; and
- future performance of the proposed highway intersection treatments.

Heavy vehicle inspection bays, similar to those on the existing highway between Rowley Road and Thomas Road in Oakford, are also being considered between Bishop Road and Orton Road.

Heavy vehicle inspection bays on the road network allow operators to check loads and inspectors to assess compliance of heavy vehicles in a safe manner.

## Connectivity and accessibility

As part of the project's development, an access and connectivity strategy is being prepared to identify opportunities and constraints to enable movement of all traffic modes (vehicle, equestrian, cyclists and pedestrians) on local roads adjacent to the highway.

The strategy will consider:

- retaining existing access where possible;
- provision of alternate access where the existing is impacted;

- the importance of east/west connection for the local network and community; and
- investigation of key connections such as Hopkinson Road around Jersey Road, Abernethy Road, Thomas Road, Orton Road and Gossage Road.

A draft strategy is expected to be completed in mid-2021.

### New technologies

As part of achieving sustainable infrastructure outcomes, Main Roads is in discussions with Alcoa to investigate the possibility of using red sand, which is a by-product of the alumina refinery process, for use on the embankments and as a sub-grade material for the highway.

Testing is currently underway to confirm whether the sand complies with Main Roads specifications.

### Environmental assessment

State environmental approvals have been obtained for the Tonkin Highway Extension project under the *Environmental Protection Act*. Federal environmental approvals are now being sought.

The project is currently being assessed by the Australian Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. In response to requests for additional information from the Australian Government, Main Roads is undertaking the collection and analysis of biological data.

It is anticipated that the additional information will be available for public review and comment in the second quarter of 2021, with the outcome of the assessment expected in the third quarter of 2021.

### Freight rail realignment planning study

A planning study was undertaken in 2020 to determine a rail corridor and the feasibility of including the construction of a proposed realignment of Kwinana South Western freight rail line through Mundijong and Mardella as part of the Tonkin Highway Extension project.

The study highlighted the significance a future rail corridor will have for local landholders and the environment.

As a result, it was determined that further planning for a future freight rail realignment corridor should not be expedited and should be undertaken in full consultation with the community.

Further information about community consultation, timing and delivery of the rail realignment will become available in the coming months.

Timeline: Tonkin Highway Extension	
Traffic modelling and local network analysis, Urban Design and Landscape Strategy, Connectivity and Access Strategy	In progress
Project development	In progress
Procurement to commence	Early 2021
Environmental assessment public comment period	Early/Mid 2021
Contract award	Late 2021
Detailed design and construction	Early 2022
Construction completed	2024

The Tonkin Highway Extension project is one of a number of projects being delivered by Main Roads in the local area. For more information or to subscribe for Project Updates, visit the Main Roads website at

[www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au)

and search for Tonkin Highway Extension, Thomas Road Safety Improvement and Thomas Road over Rail project.

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