Wanneroo Road/Ocean Reef Road Interchange now fully open

Traffic moved on to the new Wanneroo Road bridge over Ocean Reef Road in late July, one month ahead of schedule.

More than 70,000 vehicles move through this interchange every day, and the opening of the new bridge marked the culmination of a 16 month project to improve traffic flow and safety at Perth’s seventh most congested interchange.

You can now enjoy a safer, more efficient journey whether you’re using the roads or paths.

Jointly funded by the Australian ($58.56M) and State Governments ($14.64M), the new interchange will:

- Alleviate pressures on the existing road network
- Enhance travel reliability
- Improve safety for all road users
- Support economic activity through a more effective road network
- Secure transport efficiencies for the fast growing north-eastern corridor.

The project has created approximately 350 direct and indirect jobs during construction.

The Wanneroo Road/Ocean Reef Road Interchange was officially opened by the Minister for Transport, Hon Rita Saffioti MLA and Local Members on 13 October 2020.

Ocean Reef Road under the new Wanneroo Road bridge
The bridge abutments reflect the market garden history of the local area, shown in an old aerial photograph on the right.

The project features carefully selected native vegetation.

Landscapes taking shape
Landscaping commenced in July and has been designed to reflect the remnant wetland and woodland vegetation that is a feature of the local area, and is typical of the Swan Coastal Plain. It has also been carefully curated to integrate with existing City of Wanneroo streetscapes.

The design includes trees, shrubs and groundcovers featuring species such as Banksia, Eucalypts, Melaleucas and Grevilleas.

A number of grass trees were transplanted as part of the project works. These grass trees have been stored at a specialist nursery offsite, for replanting within the project landscaping.

More than 13,000 cubic metres of topsoil was excavated from the site and reused during the landscaping and revegetation activities.

Artworks inspired by historical land use
The project site is surrounded by noise walls showing colourful artworks which reflect the area’s history as a market garden.

The designs on the bridge abutments also pay tribute to the previous “lay of the land.”

Artist Mark Datodi designed the colour palette and patterns to reflect the historical agricultural and horticultural use of the land, based on old aerial images showing the planting rows and patchwork patterns of crops including vegetables, turf and flowers.

Additionally, a creative tribute acknowledging the historic Cockman House has been installed within the noise wall opposite the popular site, adjacent to Ocean Reef Road.

The bridge abutments reflect the market garden history of the local area, shown in an old aerial photograph on the right.

A creative tribute to Cockman House has been embedded in the noise wall opposite the historic site.

The project has planted:
- 2,891 new trees
- 45,233 new shrubs
- 12.5 kg of seeds

RECOVER, REPURPOSE AND RECYCLE
• More than 500 tonnes of concrete was recovered from footpaths and kerbs that were removed at the commencement of the project, and reused in deep fill.
• 2,000 tonnes of limestone was recovered from the old road and used to construct temporary realignments during construction of the interchange.
• 350 tonnes of vegetation was mulched on site and combined with topsoil for use in earthworks.

RECOVER, REPURPOSE AND RECYCLE

Paths enhance connectivity
Pedestrian and cyclist facilities have been designed to provide safe access and connectivity to the existing path network, including a new underpass under the southwest ramp.

The plan above shows the project including connections via the paths.

A new path has just been built to connect the existing paths between Wanneroo Road and Willespie Park, providing additional residential connectivity to the local schools and services.

Backshall Place widening
Backshall Place has been widened at the intersection with Ocean Reef Road to enable two vehicles to exit left and right simultaneously. This will assist in reducing traffic build up at the intersection.

More than 13,000 cubic metres of topsoil was excavated from the site and reused during the landscaping and revegetation activities.
Engineers of the future

More than 40 students from Curtin University’s Civil Engineering Association (CCEA) recently visited the Wanneroo Road and Ocean Reef Road Interchange project.

The students, who were a mix of third and fourth year civil engineering undergraduates, were given a tour of the site by the project manager and construction manager, who explained the construction program and some of the challenges and opportunities presented by the project. This was followed by a Q&A session.

This important upgrade will accommodate the growth and development of Perth’s north.