

# West Coast Highway Planning Review



An artist's impression of surface level West Coast Highway northbound approaching Scarborough Beach Road intersection. Image is indicative only subject to change.

## An Invitation to have your say

We are seeking community input into a planning review that provides a solution for upgrading West Coast Highway between Ventnor Street to West Coast Terrace in Scarborough.

### What's happening?

We are planning to better connect our community to Western Australia's iconic Scarborough Beach foreshore activity hub with its world-class facilities and want to hear from you.

As Scarborough evolves, we want to improve West Coast Highway and the amenity it provides. Our plan is to provide safer and more convenient access for locals, people from all over Perth and travellers far and wide.

As a high-volume Primary Regional Road linking the northern coastal suburbs of Perth with Fremantle, West Coast Highway is an important arterial coastal traffic route providing access to Scarborough. However, with its four-lane dual carriageway and congested intersections, it currently cuts through the coastal suburb of Scarborough, separating the community.

High volume movements of traffic make the road difficult to cross and negotiate safely. The planning review will enable

opportunities to improve access and connectivity to cater for residents, as well as for businesses and future development.

West Coast Highway is approaching its limits with its current daily traffic volume of almost 40,000 vehicles and extended periods of peak traffic congestion have become a common sight.

West Coast Highway is under pressure, both from nearby residential and commercial re-development, as well as Perth's increasing population and regional



An artist's impression of northbound West Coast Highway. Image is indicative only and subject to change.

traffic demands supporting urban needs in one of Australia's fastest-growing capital cities.

Mounting safety issues, extensive travel delays, disruptions from increased noise, vibration as well as vehicle emissions, especially during peak traffic conditions, have become frequent causes of community concerns.

The highway is expected to become even more congested, and with daily traffic volumes forecast to reach nearly 50,000 vehicles by 2041, issues are set to worsen. As Scarborough's popularity increases and the number of residents and visitors continues to grow, planning for a future of West Coast Highway has become a priority.

### How was the plan developed?

Scarborough's coastal landscape with its environmental values and both planned and existing urban development prohibit a traditional highway widening approach. A solution needed to be found that alleviates adverse traffic impacts and enhances the liveability of Scarborough through improved efficiency, safety, environmental performance, and reliability of transport systems servicing the area.

With the input from State and Local Government representatives, including DevelopmentWA, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Department of Transport, Public Transport Authority and the City of Stirling, all working collaboratively with Main Roads as part of the Scarborough Transport Working Group, primary objectives and guiding principles were identified to inform the development of a solution.

These were:

- reducing community severance effects by reconnecting Scarborough's East and West
- providing a safe, efficient and reliable road network on West Coast Highway
- providing alternative movement corridors and safe access for local traffic
- providing enhanced accessibility to support tourism and recreation
- encouraging active and alternative transport modes (walking, cycling, opportunities for future public transport improvements - proposed transit route on Scarborough Beach Road)

West Coast Highway is expected to become even more congested with daily traffic volumes forecast to reach nearly 50,000 vehicles by 2041.



An artist's impression of northbound West Coast Highway centrally lowered carriageway for regional traffic. Image is indicative only and subject to change.

## What is the plan?

With the assistance of expert engineering consultants, this guiding framework allowed Main Roads to come up with a plan that will reimagine the future of West Coast Highway. After detailed modelling and assessment of several options in consultation with stakeholders, the planning study identified the preferred long term transport solution for the area, which includes:

- a centrally located three-lane lowered road section allowing regional traffic to pass under major intersections of Brighton Road, Scarborough Beach Road and Manning Street
- new, lower speed - lower volume parallel surface roads that are easier to cross encouraging walking and bike riding
- full movement intersections at Brighton Road, Scarborough Beach Road and Manning Street remaining at surface level, facilitating improved connectivity and better east-west movements for local traffic and operating grade-separated from regional traffic
- generous intersection areas with purpose-built pedestrian crossing points, to reduce community severance
- The concept proposes wider verges along a large majority the corridor which will allow sufficient space for landscaping and street tree planting.

## What are the benefits of the preferred plan?

This solution will provide a more reliable, connected, safer and sustainable outcome by:

- significantly improving accessibility for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists to Scarborough's foreshore
- providing a vertical by-pass for regional traffic via grade-separated intersections
- providing local access, improving safety and offering alternative and more sustainable routes for all users of the road environment
- allowing space for complimentary urban design elements, such as street furniture, landscaping and public art
- removing the visual and physical barrier of regional traffic flows and associated congestion and allowing sufficient capacity to handle the projected traffic volumes expected in 2041
- enhancing road network efficiency, mobility and productivity
- maintaining the essential link between areas north and south of Scarborough whilst better connecting the community
- improving social and environmental amenity due to a reduction in traffic volumes at ground level, allowing

more sustainable traffic movements and increased operational efficiency of the road

- maintaining the essential accessibility needs and vital movements of people and goods within, to and through the Scarborough area throughout the construction phase
- recognising constraints of the natural and existing/planned urban environment.

## Why does the preferred plan not include a tunnel?

A tunnel option would require the complete closure of West Coast Highway for prolonged periods of time. This would cause extensive disruptions to traffic movements and access to businesses and residents in the Scarborough area.

With the lack of available space for a tunnel, significant land resumption from commercial and residential property would need to occur, as well as public coastal reserves, to accommodate tunnel portals and road tie-ins to the north and south of Scarborough's built-up area.

A centrally located lowered road section in combination with parallel roads and multiple pedestrian crossing points at ground level was assessed as the most suitable solution, based on established objectives and guiding principles.

It allows access to be maintained during construction and ensures the least possible impact on the natural and built environments, and most importantly, on Scarborough's residents, businesses and passing trade, as well as visitors to the area.

### How to have your say?

Watch our videos detailing the concept and take the survey to share your thoughts before 25 February 2022 by visiting [www.mysaytransport.wa.gov.au](http://www.mysaytransport.wa.gov.au).

Stay informed by visiting [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au) and subscribing to the West Coast Highway Planning Review project for future electronic mail updates.

### What happens next?

We will collate all the survey feedback provided from the community and businesses through MySay Transport and report on key findings.

It is then intended that DevelopmentWA will make amendments to the Scarborough Redevelopment Scheme to protect identified land requirements.

### More information

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