Albany Ring Road alignment looking east towards Albany Highway and Menang Drive

Albany Highway and Menang Drive intersection – changes in conditions

Phase 1 of the Albany Ring Road project continues to make good progress with earthworks to support the new interchange at Albany Highway starting to take shape.

As the project heads into the cooler months, some changes will be made to intersection of Albany Highway and Menang Drive to allow bridge abutment works to take place. These changes will include a slight realignment of Albany Highway and intermittent speed restrictions.

# Removal of light poles

Recently, the light poles at the intersection of Albany Highway and Menang Drive were replaced with temporary lighting to accommodate the road re-alignment and the bridge works, which are due to commence in the next few months.

# Service relocations

# Existing power, telecommunications, water and effluent services that currently run alongside the Albany Highway are being relocated.

# Power services have been placed underground so power poles do not interfere with the bridge structure that is to be built across the highway.

# In addition, water and effluent services need to be relocated away from the bridge footings to avoid damage that could be caused by the weight of the bridge.

# The new service pipelines are being designed in consultation with the service providers and once plans approved, will be installed with minimal disruption to services.

Telecommunication services are also being laid deeper, to protect the lines from the weight of the bridge.

# What to expect as a road user

The existing temporary speed restriction of 80km/h along Albany Highway will remain in place, as will the 60km/h restriction along Link Road.

There will be occasions when additional speed restrictions will be implemented for worker and road user safety, and to allow activities to continue alongside traffic on the highway, however these intermittent changes will be kept to a minimum.

Sustainable practices

Construction of roads requires large volumes of suitable material. Due to the specific requirement for different ‘layers’ of road pavement, materials are usually imported from external sources, which are known to meet Main Roads’ requirements for a high quality, durable product.

The Albany Ring Road project team has adjusted its work practices to reduce the amount of imported materials, by finding and preparing materials on site for the different road layers. This has greatly reduced the requirement for haulage and increased the use of materials within the project area.

Environmental research study

The Albany Ring Road project is seeking to partner with external research organisations within the region during the period of construction. The focus of the research will be within the area of Biodiversity and Conservation.

It is expected that the studies will assist in broadening understanding of fauna movement within the built landscape. This research could potentially inform future road designs of fauna movement structures, and add to the regional understanding of endangered species; such as the Western Ringtail Possum.

Cultural heritage

Cultural Awareness sessions have been provided to all contractors associated with the Albany Ring Road, and Main Roads staff on site. The participants have found the sessions informative, now having a greater appreciation of the Noongar culture and challenges faced by Aboriginal people.

Decmil also has a commitment to engage with the local Noongar community and assist them in recording their stories of place for the community’s awareness and appreciation.

Supporting the local construction industry

The Albany Ring Road project team is committed to bringing broader community benefits to Albany, particularly through its support for local industry.

Our contractor, Decmil is working in partnership with the Albany Branch of Master Builders Association (MBA), to deliver a local construction industry session that will take place on 7 April at the MBA facility in Graham Street.

If you are involved in the Construction Industry and would like to attend this session, register via email [Fiona.Pengel@decmil.com.au](mailto:Fiona.Pengel@decmil.com.au).

# Did you know?

Since the start of the project over 300,000 cubic metres of soil has been moved around the site.

The construction area is more than 34 hectares, that’s the equivalent of almost 20 MCG ovals, or 50 professional soccer pitches!

# Further information

Project information is available at www. mainroads.wa.gov.au/projects, or by emailing enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au or phoning 138 138. You can also register for project updates by heading to our project webpage and subscribing for email updates.