

# Albany Ring Road



Albany Ring Road (ARR) is a proposed heavy haulage freight route around the City of Albany for the transport of grain, fertilizer, woodchips and other goods to and from the Port of Albany.

ARR will link the existing major roads and highways radiating from Albany. It will bypass urban areas and improve access to the Mirambeena Strategic Industrial Area.

Albany Ring Road will provide an alternative route designed to improve traffic flow on the existing network by reducing heavy vehicle traffic, reducing congestion and enhancing safety for local and tourist traffic.

Planning for Albany Ring Road began in 1997, with stage one (Menang Drive to Chester Pass Road) constructed in 2007.

Stage Two (George Street to Princess Royal Drive) and Stage Three (Albany Highway to George Street) have been under development for a number of years and have included community and stakeholder engagement.

In 2017 the State Government committed \$35 million towards the construction of Stages Two and Three of the project, with the balance of funds (\$140 million) later being provided by the Australian Government.

Albany Ring Road will improve **safety and efficiency** for all road users, creating **economic opportunities** for the local community and broader Great Southern region.

## What is being built?

Albany Ring Road (Stages 2 and 3) is a new 11.5 kilometre road from Albany Highway to Princess Royal Drive. The proposed project alignment runs parallel to the east of Link Road and north of the freight rail line with connections to:

- Albany Highway/Menang Drive (grade separated interchange\*)
- South Coast Highway (grade separated interchange)
- Cuming Road
- Hanrahan Road/Frenchman Bay Road (grade separated interchange over road and rail)
- Roundhay Street (connecting Charles Street and Old Elleker Road)

*\*Grade separated interchange – when one road passes over or under the other road creating a separation between two roads.*

Link Road will still be a north-south connection for local traffic to the west of ARR, however, there will be changes to local journeys to the east of the new ARR. A local access strategy to address alternative access arrangements is now being developed.

Extensive planning and project development is now underway to confirm the scope and progress the various approvals to allow for construction to commence.

Activities include stakeholder consultation to identify and resolve various issues/constraints, design development, geotechnical and site investigations, traffic modelling and environmental assessments to inform environmental processes and approvals.

### Why is Albany Ring Road needed now?

In the long term, Albany's population is forecast to grow and ensuring transport infrastructure to support this growth and facilitate economic opportunities into the future is important. Albany Ring Road will:

- Help secure the future of the Port of Albany by providing a high standard, unimpeded road access to the only viable port option along this section of the south coast.
- Meet the needs of forecast population and employment growth in the City of Albany.
- Reduce the potential for safety issues on the urban road network by removing the current conflict points on routes to the port; and
- Improve amenity – reduce environmental and amenity impacts on residential areas and the urban road network. Allow rationalisation of land use within the City of Albany and secure a transport route for heavy vehicles.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### How will environmental impacts be managed?

We manage our operations using a systematic approach to screen all of our activities for potential environmental impacts.

We use a hierarchy of avoid, minimise, reduce and offset our environmental impacts. This is achieved primarily through changes in scope and design, and the development and implementation of an Environmental Management Plan.

Albany Ring Road is being designed to minimise environmental impacts. Most (> 80%) of the project is located on cleared land. A key focus for us is to consult with environmental groups and seek their local knowledge.

The project will be referred to the State Environmental Protection Authority and the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy to assess ARR's environmental impacts.

A number of detailed biological surveys have been undertaken to ensure that all environmental issues have been identified and will be managed appropriately.

### What about cyclists and walkers?

Wider shoulders along Albany Ring Road will allow for on-road cycling however, cyclists are encouraged to use the local road network instead.

Separate cycling/walking facilities are not included in these works, however connectivity to existing cycling and walking infrastructure will be considered in consultation with the City of Albany.

Albany Ring Road will also maintain existing connections to the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail.

### When will ARR be built?

Expressions of Interest from industry will be sought in November 2019. This is the first phase of the procurement process and is designed to alert industry to the planned procurement of the construction contract for Albany Ring Road.

The procurement of major construction contracts such as that for Albany Ring Road can take around 12 months to complete which is why the process has begun now. It will include involvement with local business organisations to discuss opportunities for local businesses.

Construction of the project is anticipated to begin in late 2020 subject to environmental and other approvals being obtained.

### Further information

Please contact Main Roads on **138 138** or email [enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au). For more information, or to register for updates, visit [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au), follow the home page link to **Projects** and click **Albany Ring Road**.