

Bunbury Outer Ring Road



Sand embankments for the “mega bridge” over Golding Crescent, the Ferguson River, the freight line, and Boyanup-Picton Road

The Bunbury Outer Ring Road (BORR) will reduce local congestion and increase efficiency for freight vehicles and regional traffic while improving long-term access to the Bunbury Port. The project will support social and economic growth and development, enhance amenity on local roads by reducing freight and regional traffic on them, and create a safer road system for our community in greater Bunbury and the wider South West region.

Scope finalisation

The scope and costs for stages 2 and 3 of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road project have now been finalised. It includes a range of benefits for business and the community while representing value for money.

The increased investment of \$1.25 billion aligns with the scale and complexity of the project and reflects the current market, including cost pressures around materials, labour and plant hire.

A large amount of the additional investment will be spent within the region, creating employment and business opportunities. This includes an increase of \$150 million (\$450 million total) targeting local businesses. An increase of \$10 million (\$30 million total) will be spent with Aboriginal businesses. We expect 10 per cent of our workforce to come from the Aboriginal community

and 10 per cent to be unemployed prior to starting work on the project.

So far, we have spent \$147.6 million with local businesses in the region and \$14.9 million with Aboriginal businesses. We are already seeing some great success stories, and more will be shared in the coming months as work progresses.

The increased scope includes additional fauna and social amenity initiatives in Gelorup and a revised interchange design at BORR and Bussell Highway, known as the ‘Y’ interchange. This is a first for WA and balances some of the key community concerns to deliver the highway.

To find out more information about the scope for stages 2 and 3 of the project, view our [fact sheet](#) on the Main Roads website.



Work underway at the Forrest Highway project site

Southern section environmental approvals

The southern section of the BORR has now received all state and federal environmental, heritage, and planning approvals. This includes approval from the state Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

As required under the EPA, we are continuing possum surveys until September this year. The surveys help us to document the Western Ringtail Possum population and better understand possum movements in and out of the survey area.

We are also beginning a trapping program within the BORR road reserve. This will protect vulnerable native species that live within the area. You may notice signs advising to stay clear of the area within the vicinity of the road reserve.

Properties located within 150 metres of the BORR southern alignment will be offered a property condition report. These play a crucial role in evaluating compensation should landowners ever need to make a claim for damages potentially caused by the Bunbury Outer Ring Road project.

Progress update

We recently reached our 20 per cent construction milestone despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 and seasonal changes.

Where BORR meets Forrest Highway, work is well underway for the bridge at the interchange at Paris and Clifton Roads. Excavation, foundation preparation, and piling pad construction is done and the artwork design is ready (more on this below).

We have been preloading across all sites and there is ongoing embankment construction at the Discovery Road, Raymond Road and the Paris Road and Clifton Road construction sites. An embankment is a bank of earth built to carry a road over a low lying area. Preloading is the process of allowing the sand to sit for an extended period before we compact the earth to increase the weight that it can bear.



Installation of the mechanically stabilised earth (MSE) walls at Raymond Road

Southern section engagement

In March, residents from the Gelorup area attended a community drop-in session in Bunbury. At this session, we were able to gather additional feedback on the proposed Environmental Protection Authority initiatives for the southern section of the project.

Prior to this drop-in session, the South West Gateway Alliance (SWGA) invited residents to complete a short survey to capture wider community feedback on proposed social and environmental design enhancements. These included walking trails, additional screen walls, and a pedestrian underpass at Woods Road.



Gelorup community drop-in event

The results showed that the proposed enhancements were supported across the majority of survey categories.

Walking trails and screen walls will proceed subject to further consultation.

The Woods Road underpass was not supported by the community, primarily because of concerns about safety and anti-social behaviour. It has been removed from the scope.

A more detailed report about the survey can be found [here](#). The report outlines the feedback received and provides recommendations regarding the design decisions.

NAWIC site visit

At the end of May, BORR hosted a site tour for the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC).

The group visited several construction sites along the northern project area, from Forrest Highway to South Western Highway. The group met with the BORR team to gain a better understanding of the project and how construction was tracking.

NAWIC's mission is to see an equitable construction industry, where women are fully participating. Their goal is to achieve a minimum of 25 per cent female participation across the construction industry by 2025. Currently, 23 per cent of the SWGA employees are female, making us comfortably within this target.



NAWIC members on-site at Forrest Highway

Melissa Riley wins artwork contract

BORR's first commissioned art opportunity has been awarded to local Aboriginal artist, Melissa Riley. Melissa's artwork will be installed on the bridge abutments at the intersection between Forrest Highway and BORR.

There are seven commissioned art opportunities on the project with three specifically reserved for local Noongar artists.

This opportunity was released for expressions of interest in December 2021 and awarded following a competitive, two-stage procurement process undertaken by the Alliance and the BORR Artwork Selection Committee, and included consultation with the BORR Aboriginal Heritage Advisory Group.

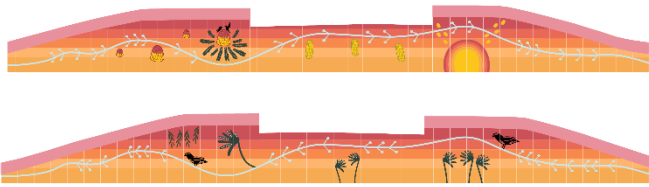
Melissa's artwork titled 'Djilba' (Spring) uses the vibrant colours of the Bunbury sunsets and incorporates local peppermint trees and banksias. Art colours are indicative only and still subject to final approvals.

"My colours, elements and story are from my family's history that will never be forgotten," Melissa said.

"DJILBA is about memorable lifelong song lines and stories told through my families song lines."



Melissa (left) with her mother Jennifer Riley



Melissa Riley's artwork design

First Aboriginal Business Development Initiative partner awarded

Our first successful business partner in the Aboriginal Business Development Initiative, Ultra Modern Construction and Civil (UMCC), started on-site in May. The initiative assisted UMCC to acquire a 20T multi-tyre roller and development of a new machine operator within their business who can then move on to additional projects following completion of their work on BORR.

The Aboriginal Business Development Initiative is aimed at assisting existing Aboriginal businesses to expand their asset base for use on the Bunbury Outer Ring Road project without the need for financing.

The pilot initiative was opened to currently established Aboriginal businesses from the South West who are looking to grow their business, with applications closing in August last year.



Eugene Ian and Lance from the UMCC team at the South Western Highway project site with their new roller



Detailed design process

- July**
 - Local roads package for Discovery Drive awarded
 - Business Briefings in Bunbury
 - Artist briefing for Yalinda Drive overpass
- August**
 - Bridge works progressing at Paris/Clifton Interchange
 - Transverse drainage installation along alignment continues
- September**
 - Abutment backfill at South Western Highway bridge begins
 - Martin-Pelusey road closure proposed to start