



Project Overview

Project Overview: March 2011

Geraldton North South Highway (GNSH) Planning Study

This newsletter provides stakeholders and the community in the area with the outcomes of the community consultation program conducted for the future Geraldton North South Highway (GNSH) and the final concept and reservation plan.

The GNSH will provide an alternative, future north south regional road route for the Geraldton area that will remove regional through traffic, particularly heavy vehicles, from the existing North West Coastal Highway and Brand Highway within the Geraldton city area.

The concept provides for a four lane divided highway with a central median and pedestrian and cyclist facilities. No frontage property access and limited side road access is intended for future highway planning to enhance safety and maximise the highway's efficiency as a transport route.

The concept includes grade separated interchanges (roads that intersect on different levels) at the junctions with the Geraldton Southern Transport Corridor and the future Nangulu Access Road. These interchanges include provision for bridges to separate through traffic and on/off ramp connections to cater for all turning traffic movements. 'At grade' intersections (roads that intersect on the same level) are proposed with the majority of the existing side road connections. The configuration of some intersections could change in the future to integrate with existing and future land use proposals for the area.

Community consultation occurred from October to December 2009 as part of the planning study being undertaken by Main Roads, in conjunction with a Working Group of representatives from Main Roads, Department of Planning, Mid West Development Commission, City of Geraldton Greenough, and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The study focused on the future reservation requirement for the Geraldton North South Highway.

A brochure entitled *Geraldton North South Highway – Alignment Definition Study* was distributed in October 2009 in Geraldton to landowners and communities along the proposed alignment. Additionally, media releases, meetings with affected landowners and public displays at the City of Geraldton Greenough and the Main Roads Regional Office were initiated to gain community, business and road user feedback on the preferred concept and road reservation.

Consultation Results

A total of 53 responses were received in the comment period, and the major findings from analysis of the submissions showed that six of the 53 respondents came from directly affected landowners. Slightly more than half of responses related to Flores Road access issues. The key issues raised by directly affected landowners included:

- Property impact in terms of business, value, access, severance of water supply to residence/ paddocks/stock.
- Project timing.
- Effect on natural bush.
- Flooding issues on Brand Highway in low lying areas.
- Change in lifestyle – long term family ownership of land.
- Visual and noise impacts.
- Local access arrangements in the vicinity of Flores Road and impact on business operations.
- Request for other alternative road alignments to be considered.



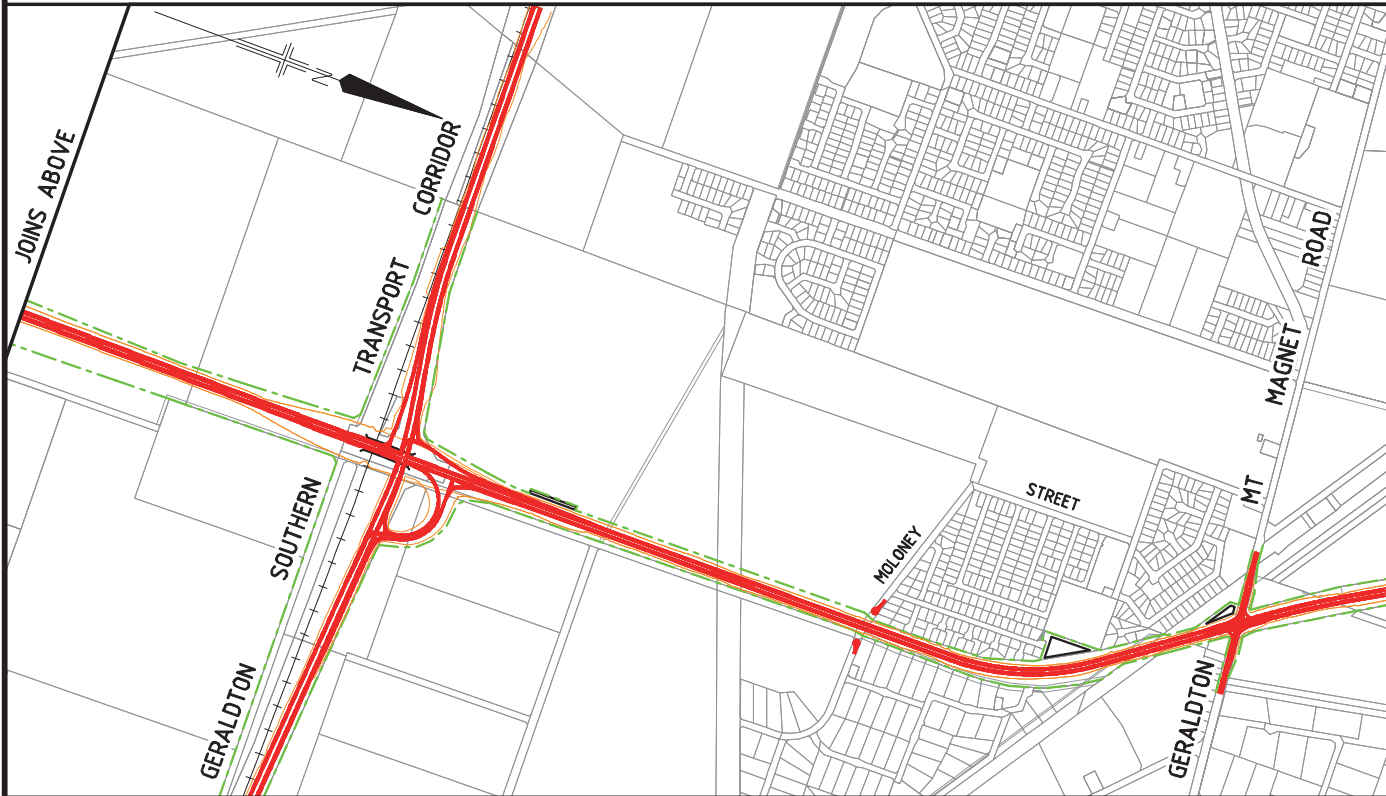
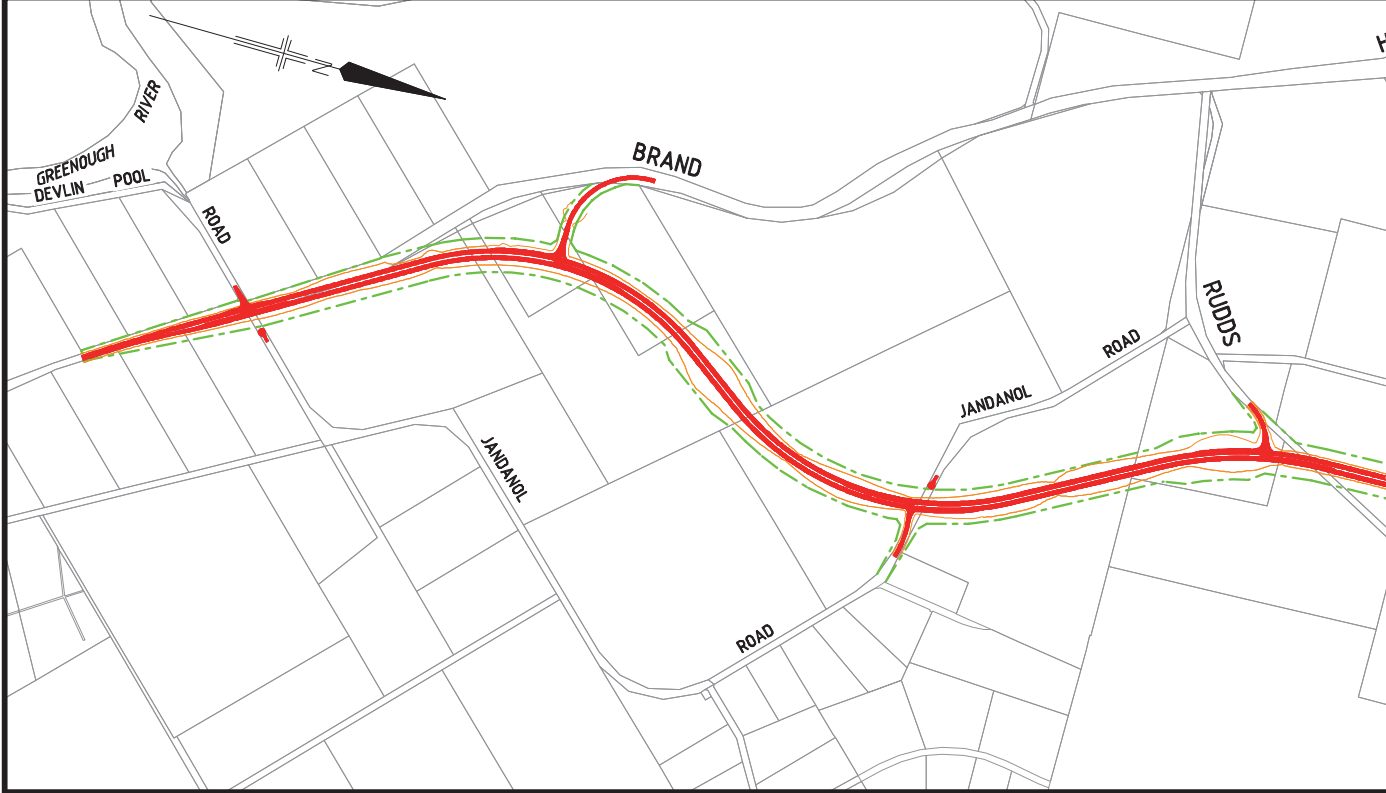
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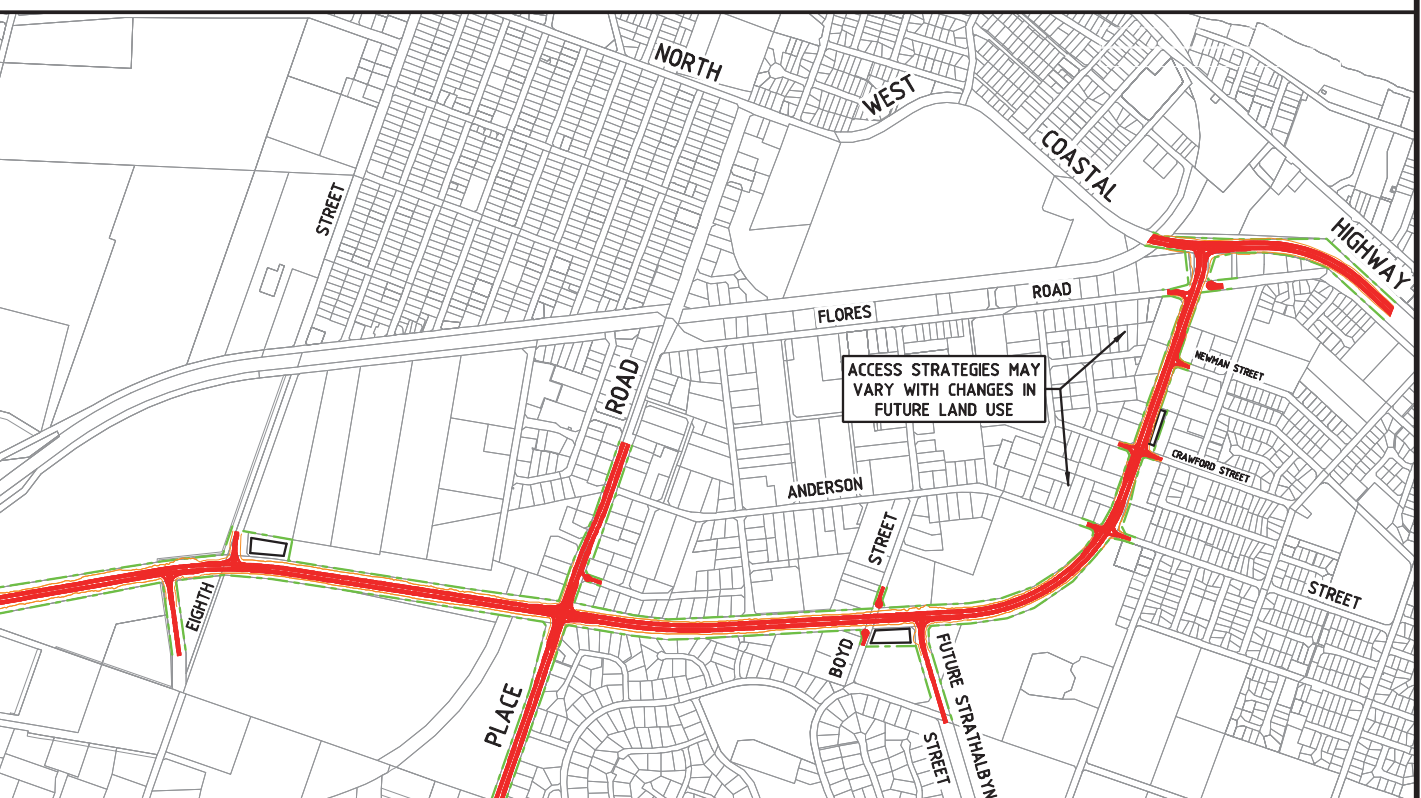
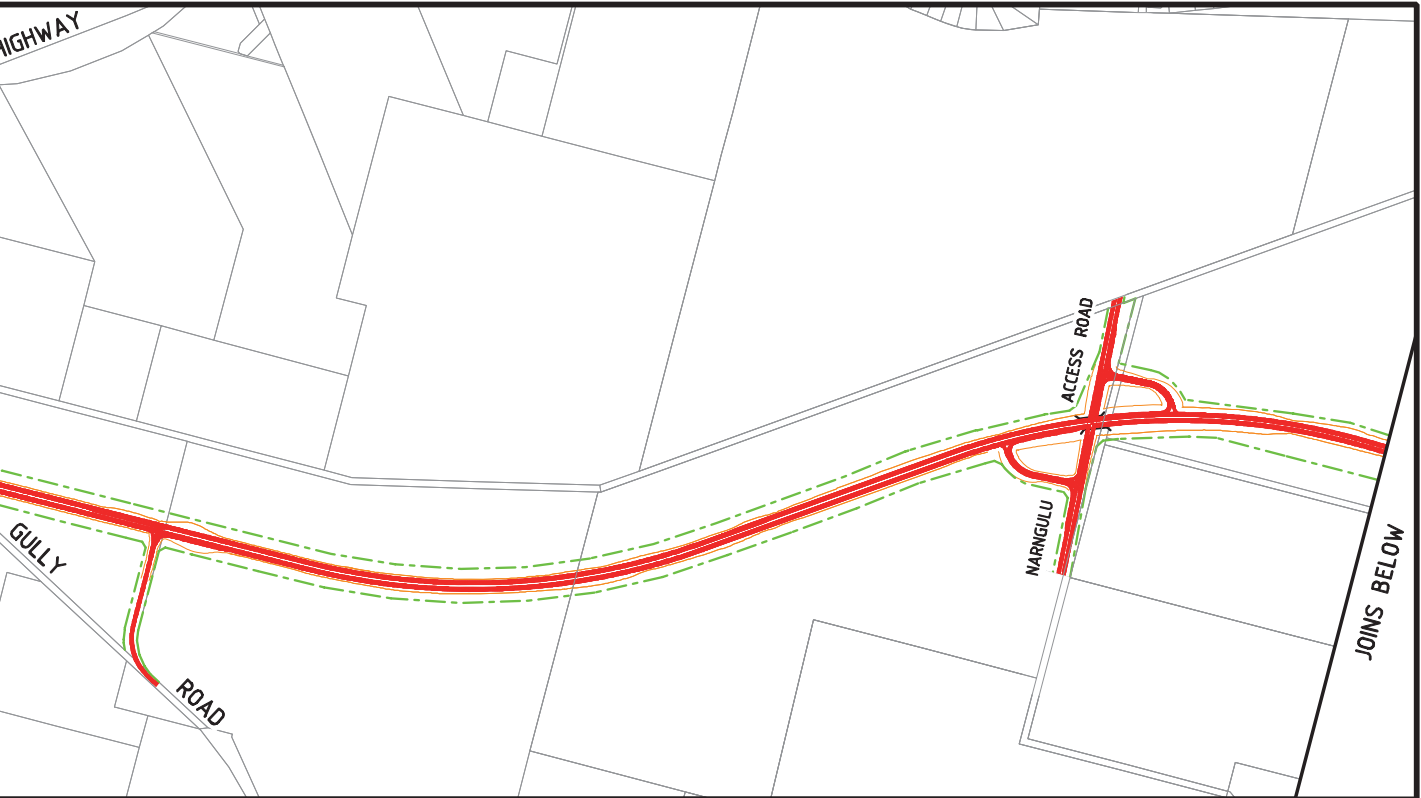


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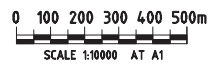
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What has happened since consultation?

Following consultation, further technical work was undertaken to address the issues raised and determine what alterations could be made to the preferred concept and road reservation. It was found:

- Local access issues in the vicinity of Flores Road: Resolution of the access issues raised has no effect on the proposed GNSH reservation requirements. Access arrangements will be reviewed at the design stage of the GNSH in the future.
- Reduction of the proposed highway reservation to minimise the impact on the property in the south east quadrant of the GNSH/Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road intersection would require significant retaining walls and cost. It was decided to maintain the proposed reservation to retain flexibility for the future design and construction of the GNSH.
- Other alternative alignments for the GNSH were investigated several years ago, and included extensive stakeholder and community consultation. The preferred alignment was endorsed by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) in 2003 and included in the Geraldton Region Plan. Therefore, any suggested alternative alignments could not be considered as part of this study.

The preferred GNSH concept and reservation plans have been developed along the previously endorsed alignment, taking into account more detailed environment, heritage, geotechnical, noise investigations and input from key stakeholders and the local community.

The preferred concept and reservation does not impact on any significant environment or heritage sites. Resolution of the issues raised by the local community does not affect the preferred GNSH reservation. These issues will be reviewed again as part of future detail design in consultation with the City of Geraldton Greenough.

Current Status

The City of Geraldton Greenough and WAPC Infrastructure Coordinating Committee have endorsed the preferred concept and reservation, in principle, as presented to the community and shown in this brochure.

What are the next steps in this planning study process?

The next step involves Main Roads liaising with the Department of Planning and the City of Geraldton Greenough to include the endorsed GNSH concept and reservation in the local planning strategies and statutory plans. Opportunity for further public comment is provided during these processes.

At this stage no decision has been made to construct the GNSH. Consequently, directly affected landowners can continue to use their land for existing purposes.

Further information

Main Roads thanks you for your patience and continued interest in this process. If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact Main Roads Regional Office in Geraldton on Telephone: (08) 9956 1200.



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