



# New Brooking Channel Bridge



**Above:** The existing Brooking Channel Bridge.

## The Brooking Channel Bridge will be replaced as part of a major new resilience program for Western Australia's Kimberley region.

Replacing the Brooking Channel Bridge with a dual lane bridge will add to the region's supply chain resilience, enhance road safety, and provide ongoing employment opportunities for the Fitzroy Valley region, following the success of the New Fitzroy River Bridge project in 2023.

The Fitzroy Bridge Alliance, working in partnership with Main Roads, will replace the Brooking Channel Bridge, maintaining a focus on maximising opportunities for local employment and investment.

Initial site works at Brooking Channel are planned to begin in late April 2024, with more substantive construction works, including the demolition of the old bridge, to begin in May. The new bridge is scheduled to open to traffic in late 2024, before the next wet season.

The new 127-metre bridge will feature two lanes to allow travel in both directions. It will be capable of supporting large loads including road trains and heavy goods vehicles. There will also be a new footpath on the bridge to allow easier access for pedestrians.

## Construction overview

### Bridge design

The new 127-metre bridge will be built on the existing Brooking Channel Bridge alignment. Using a similar design methodology to the Fitzroy River Bridge, the bridge will incorporate piles, concrete piers, and a composite steel and concrete deck.

### Demolition and access

The old Brooking Channel Bridge is planned to be demolished in May. Prior to this, a temporary crossing will be constructed downstream of the bridge to ensure access for pedestrians and road users throughout construction. More information will be shared with road users and the community in advance of this milestone.

### Pile installation and pier construction

The new bridge will have 18 bridge piles providing the support for the bridge superstructure. Piling works are planned to begin in June.

Once the piles are installed, pile caps will be constructed on site. The piles will be cut to ground level and formwork will be put in place to mould the reinforcement steel and concrete.

The shells for the bridge piers, which sit on top of the pile caps, will be poured on site using specialised precast moulds. Each pier will comprise of two to three concrete shells which are stacked on top of the piling cap, bolted together and filled with reinforcement steel and concrete.



**Above:** The new bridge structure will be similar in design to the new Fitzroy River Bridge



### Bridge launch and finishing works

The bridge deck will be constructed in segments on a concrete casting bed and incrementally launched across the river from west to east.

Once the bridge is launched over the piers, finishing works will include earthworks and asphaltting the bridge deck to connect it into the sections of Great Northern Highway on either side.

**Left:** Brooking Channel Bridge from above.

## What to expect:

- An increase in workers, vehicles, and construction activity will be noticeable in the area.
- A temporary crossing will be used to cross the river throughout construction.
- There may be increased noise and vibration levels. Measures will be put in place to reduce these levels.

## Local opportunities

During last year's rebuild of the Fitzroy River Bridge, the project saw more than 260 local people take up work opportunities, contributing over 100,000 hours towards the bridge's construction.

This year, there will be a focus on boosting training and skills development through paid traineeships. Interested workers can apply to take part in traineeships where they can acquire a Certificate II in Construction, Certificate II in Security or Certificate III in Hospitality.

Workers will be supported by a skilled construction team in addition to qualified trainer and assessors.

Workers who are interested in taking part in a traineeship, can call Main Roads on 138 138 or email [jobs@fballiance.com.au](mailto:jobs@fballiance.com.au).



**Above:** Workers during last year's bridge rebuild.

## More information

If you have any questions or concerns, or wish to subscribe to updates, please contact the team through one of the following channels.

**T:** 138 138

**E:** [enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au)

**WEB:** [mainroads.wa.gov.au/new-brooking-channel-bridge](http://mainroads.wa.gov.au/new-brooking-channel-bridge).