



Pinjarra Heavy Haulage Deviation Project

Aboriginal Heritage and Engagement

Introduction

The Pinjarra Heavy Haulage Deviation (HHD) will provide an alternative route for regional heavy vehicle traffic around the town that will:

- improve road safety
- enhance amenity in the Pinjarra town centre
- support socio-economic growth.

We recognise that the areas associated with the Pinjarra Massacre site are culturally sensitive to the Aboriginal community and highly significant in terms of national heritage.

What's happening?

To recognise the importance of Aboriginal heritage, we are setting up a Nyungar Alignment Selection Working Group to work in a co-design process.

Starting in 2024, we will engage with this group to help inform the selection of a preferred alignment. We will also engage with the wider community and stakeholders.

Once a preferred alignment is identified, a Nyungar Advisory Group will be formed to progress the project through to delivery.

Background

We have been developing an alignment for the Pinjarra Heavy Haulage Deviation since the early 2000s. Engagement on various options was undertaken, with assessments identifying an alignment in 2010.

In 2021, the local Nyungar community raised concerns regarding the potential impact on the highly culturally sensitive area associated with the Pinjarra Massacre,

particularly around the Murray River. We have committed to review the 2010 alignment based on these concerns. This is consistent with reviews undertaken on projects where planning has been completed some time ago, and where sensitive constraints are involved.

Why is Aboriginal heritage important?

Aboriginal heritage holds significant value to Aboriginal people for their social, spiritual, historical, or aesthetic importance within Aboriginal traditions. These aspects provide an essential link for Aboriginal people to their past, present and future.

Aboriginal heritage is also very important to the community, Local, State and Commonwealth Governments, with preservation of heritage values a key driver.

Aboriginal culture is the oldest living culture in the world, requiring recognition, protection, preservation, and management. The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, amended in November 2023, protects Aboriginal heritage and requires approval for activities that may cause disturbance or harm.

We aim to consult with Aboriginal people to:

- avoid or minimise harm to Aboriginal heritage where possible; and
- determine how Aboriginal heritage is preserved and protected.

Why is the Pinjarra Massacre site important?

The Heritage Council of WA has the Pinjarra Massacre site listed on the State Register, with the following Statement of Significance:

Battle of Pinjarra Memorial Area is part of the site where Bindjareb people were killed by European colonists on 28 October 1834, and is of exceptional significance, to both the Nyungar community and the wider community, as an important part of contact history. Battle of Pinjarra Memorial Area has associations with important Nyungar leaders, such as Gcalyut, a prominent resistance leader of the Bilyidar Bindjareb Nyungars, and Nunar, a senior man of the Bindjareb Nyungars, and others. Battle of Pinjarra Memorial Area has associations with Governor James Stirling, J. S. Roe, Thomas Peel, and Captain Ellis.

Main Roads has undertaken cultural awareness training for many years. For the Pinjarra HHD, our Project Team participated in cultural awareness training on site in 2023 specifically to build our knowledge and understanding of the events that occurred in the area in 1834.

What happens to the preferred 2010 alignment?

Given this alignment has potentially significant impacts on the Massacre site, it is currently under review.

We will work with the Nyungar community and other stakeholders to review the alignment. The review will include liaison with stakeholders and community to determine additional changes/ concerns/ opportunities that may have arisen in recent times.

How will the engagement be done?

We engaged Aboriginal Land Services (ALS) to help us develop an appropriate and respectful engagement process, which has involved:

- In April 2023: a Nyungar Community Information Day facilitated by ALS with community members, confirming that more engagement around areas of significance was needed with Main Roads. A face-to-face meeting with Main Roads was suggested.
- 17 September 2023: Main Roads met with Nyungar community members to understand more about the significance of Aboriginal heritage in the area. One outcome was to set

up a Nyungar Alignment Selection Working Group to meet in 2024.

We are continuing to liaise with stakeholders, including the Shire of Murray, and continue to welcome feedback from the community.

What will the Nyungar Alignment Selection Working Group do?

The Working Group will facilitate meaningful collaboration between Main Roads, the Traditional Owners and Knowledge Holders, focusing on:

- Cultural input and guidance to the alignment selection of the Pinjarra HHD during the early planning phase.
- Ensuring that perspectives of the Nyungar community and Traditional Owners are taken into account.
- Exploring sensitive cultural heritage and community legacy issues to try and achieve a solution that minimises impact while considering other key factors such as road safety and amenity, environmental impact and wider community needs.

The group will also look to achieve outstanding outcomes in the areas of Nyungar cultural recognition and input for this project, with a view to setting a new benchmark.

Further information

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