

Toodyay Road Upgrade Dryandra Road to Toodyay

In 2021, \$80 million was committed by the Australian Government (\$64 million) and the State Government (\$16 million) to complete safety upgrades to the entire 27.45 kilometres of Toodyay Road in the Wheatbelt from Dryandra Road to Toodyay.



This project will deliver a safer and more consistent driving environment for residents, industry and tourists through:

- Road widening to meet current standards (11m seal on 11m pavement).
- Realignment of sections and improve safety sight lines to remove sub-standard curves.
- Intersection improvements to include turning pockets and improved sight lines.
- Four overtaking lanes to reduce conflict between heavy and light vehicles.
- Replacement of the 85-year-old Jimperding Brook bridge.
- Drainage improvements.

Project status

In 2021, the Australian Government and the State Government committed \$80m in funding to enable the remaining upgrades to take place. This followed completion of Section 3 of the project adjacent to Jingaling Brook.

Road designs for the remaining sections have been completed and procurement for construction is currently underway. The construction program will be delivered in stages over a three-year period, with initial works commencing in October 2022.

Construction of Section 6A will be undertaken during Spring and Summer 2022/23, between Clackline-Toodyay Road and Northam-Toodyay Road, adjacent to Coorinja Winery.

This relatively short section of the project will see Toodyay Road widened to 11m, consistent with the completed section of the project immediately to the east.

Some telecommunications and power services relocation works will also occur in various locations along the main alignment from October onwards. These works will require some vegetation clearing.

Main Roads and our selected contractor will minimise the impacts of construction on local landowners, road users and the community wherever possible. It is unlikely that the construction program will require road closures, however, temporary speed reductions, lane closures and access modifications may be required on occasions. We will work closely with affected stakeholders and provide as much notice as possible prior to commencement of major work.

Section 1

Widening work from Dryandra Road to east of Morangup Road including an intersection upgrade: 2024-2025

Section 2

Fernie Road intersection upgrade and widening work, including eastbound and westbound overtaking lanes: 2024-2025

Section 3

Jingaling Brook Road to west of Lovers Lane – completed

Section 4

East and West of Lovers Lane, including Jimperding Brook bridge replacement: 2023-2025

Section 5

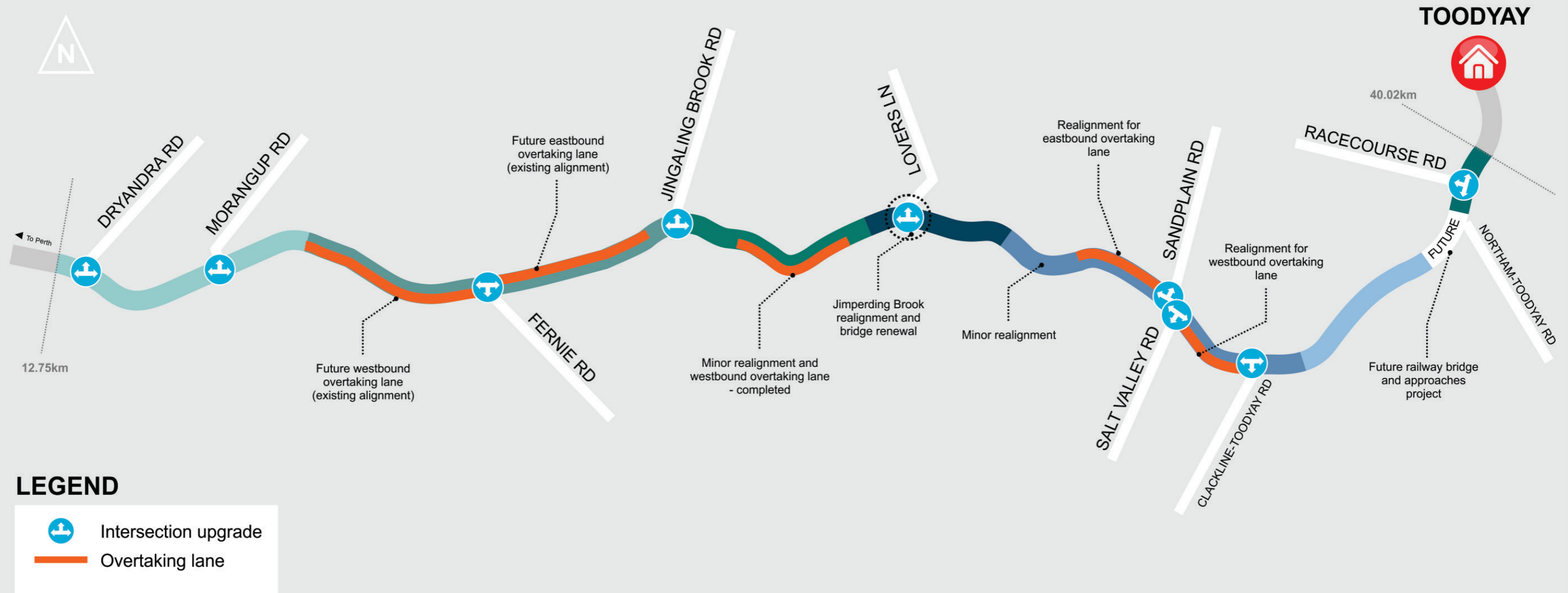
Sandplain Road and Salt Valley Road intersection upgrades and eastbound and westbound overtaking lanes: 2023-2024

Section 6A

Approximately 800m of widening work between Clackline-Toodyay Road and Northam-Toodyay Road, adjacent to Coorinja Winery: 2022-2023

Section 6B

Widening working from Northam-Toodyay Road to the north of Racecourse Road - Completed



Project Context

The route carries a significant volume of commuter and tourist traffic, as well as heavy vehicles transporting clay, grain, quarry materials, waste materials and fertilizer. Toodyay Road east of Clackline Toodyay Road (just outside of Toodyay township) services over 2,093 vehicles per day (2019-20). 18 per cent of this figure is made up of heavy vehicles. The size and weight

of heavy vehicles impacts on road safety and increases wear and tear on the existing road.

This section of Toodyay Road has an unacceptable safety record.

In the decade between 2011 and 2021 there have been 81 crashes within the proposed project area. 30 of these crashes have resulted in death or serious injury.

Concerns raised by the community have included the lack of overtaking lanes, the absence of right turn pockets at key intersections, inadequate intersection design, ageing infrastructure and poor geometry and sight lines.

As a result, it is critical that upgrades occur prior to further significant traffic growth expected in this area.

Benefits

The Toodyay Road Upgrade will generate positive return to the community and economy through a combination of improved road safety and efficiency, and long-term economic benefits to the construction, tourism and resource sectors.

The project will:

- Ease congestion caused by heavy vehicles by improving intersections and providing safe overtaking opportunities.
- Provide a more forgiving roadside environment and improve road safety outcomes.

- Reduce travel time and vehicle operating costs.
- Improve access to Toodyay and the surrounding Wheatbelt region, supporting tourism and freight movements.

Community and environment

Main Roads has liaised closely with stakeholders and the local community regarding the scope and design of the project since 2017. Feedback received from the community has been carefully considered and various design enhancements have resulted. These include:

- A substantial reduction of the project footprint at the Sandplain / Salt Valley Road intersection. This will enable a significant amount of established vegetation to be retained, including several mature wandoo trees and 85 cockatoo breeding trees.
- Incorporation of a single span bridge over Jimperding Brook, to retain water flow. A culvert was initially proposed for this location.
- Reconsideration of the design at the intersection of Fernie Road, with a view to retaining a mature wandoo tree, which was previously identified for clearing.
- A reduction in the allowable width for construction machinery to access the site, from 5m down to 3m.
- Modifications to the design of the section of road between Dryandra and Morangup Roads to retain a population of sun orchids.
- Consideration of including two stopping places along the alignment (subject to further investigation).

In addition to the requirements for the clearing permit, Main Roads has also developed a revegetation plan contributing to ecological connectivity while preserving the look and feel of the roadside.



This includes:

- 52 hectares of revegetation.
- Sourcing 13,800 seedlings (55 species) from six nurseries for revegetation.
- Using excess germinated seed to infill plant previous revegetation.
- Salvaging 100 grass trees, 44 of which were relocated in acquired land adjacent to Jingaling Brook. The remaining 56 grass trees and 20 macrozamia palms have been kept at a local nursery ready for replanting.

In accordance with State and Federal environmental regulations, an environmental offset for these upgrades includes a property of 196 hectares of prime Wandoo woodland adjacent to the Clackline Nature Reserve. This represents almost an extra one-third of the current reserve. Clackline Nature Reserve will be expanded by around four times the amount of vegetation that will be

removed from the road reserve along Toodyay Road. This property will be conserved in perpetuity.

Additionally, 188 artificial black cockatoo nesting hollows are being installed in the reserve or in other nearby nature reserves. The reserve and the nesting hollows will be managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. In December 2021, the first Cockatoo was born in an artificial nesting hollow.

Further information

To find out more about the Toodyay Road Upgrade or to provide feedback, please contact us on 138 138 or via email enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au

Scan the QR code to subscribe to updates and read more about the project



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