



Australian Government



mainroads
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



BUNBURY

OUTER RING ROAD



Providing a safe, reliable and sustainable transport network.

The Bunbury Outer Ring Road Project will provide a **27 kilometre section of highway** connecting Forrest Highway to Bussell Highway. It is a key component in the long planned transport network for South West WA.

The Economic Importance of Bunbury

Bunbury is the second largest city in Western Australia. In 2016, the residential population of Greater Bunbury was around 90,000 people. By 2041, the population is forecast to reach 150,000.

Bunbury is home to Western Australia's fourth-largest port by throughput, accommodating export growth of 3.4% annually between 2012 and 2017.

Greater Bunbury is the gateway to the South West, a strategic freight centre and tourism hub relying on efficient and reliable transport.

“For 2018, the Bunbury-Geographe region's contribution to tourism was around \$379 million (representing around 30 per cent of the South West region's tourism output), providing employment to around 1,972 people.”

The Transport Challenges

A number of constraints are stifling the growth potential of the Greater Bunbury area and undermining the safe, reliable and efficient movement of people and goods.

The Port is located adjacent to the Bunbury CBD and is serviced by five major highways that converge on the eastern outskirts of the city. The existing road network carries a mix of freight, regional, local and tourist traffic with no separation of traffic streams. This means that vehicles of all sizes, purposes and destinations are using the same roads. This contributes to delays, driver frustration and causes safety problems. It also has a negative impact on amenity and the attractiveness of Greater Bunbury for tourists.

There is a heavy reliance on private vehicles within Greater Bunbury. In 2016, 92 per cent of residents travelled via private vehicle to work. Many people travel from Capel, Harvey, Dardanup and surrounding areas to work, do business or shop in Bunbury.

 **7**
INTERCHANGES

 **24**
BRIDGES

 **2**
REST AREAS

Why we need a Bunbury Outer Ring Road

1. Increasing productivity

Freight traffic is currently constrained and future growth will place greater demand on the road network. Inefficient access to and from the Port increases operating costs for industry and constrains the volume and frequency of freight movements.

Bunbury Outer Ring Road will improve access to the Port, providing more capacity, higher operating speeds and better road conditions. This will help to protect and promote competitiveness of the Port and its users.

The new highway will enhance the road network between existing and proposed freight and logistics centres. Supporting growth and expansion will lead to more manufacturing, agricultural processing and local employment.

2. Easing congestion and improving road safety

Forrest Highway, Robertson Drive and Bussell Highway experience congestion and safety issues. Some vehicles (including trucks) are diverting to use unsuitable local roads, including in residential areas and close to community facilities. Local roads were not designed to cater for freight and heavy traffic.

Traffic volumes have increased over recent years and will continue to increase as the population and economy grows. Without intervention, this will increase the likelihood and severity of accidents and negatively impact amenity for residents and visitors.

Measures to upgrade the existing road network would provide only limited improvements and would not solve the long-term traffic, safety and productivity issues that would arise as the population grows.

Tourism is a significant contributor to the Greater Bunbury economy. Significant destinations include attractions in Bunbury CBD and the Ferguson Valley. Along with the wider South West, the majority of domestic and international visitors drive to the area.

One of the advantages of Greater Bunbury as a tourist destination is its proximity to the State's major population centre, Perth. The completion of Forrest Highway in 2009 reduced journey times by approximately 30 minutes, improving travel times to Bunbury and other destinations in the South West.

However, the mixing of tourist, local and freight traffic within Greater Bunbury reduces the safety of the area for local people and visitors. Were this allowed to increase over time, it would make Greater Bunbury less attractive as a place to live, potentially affecting the areas labour supply and investment opportunities.

3. Unlocking opportunities

BORR will unlock the development potential of existing and proposed industrial expansion areas including Picton and Waterloo. It will facilitate planned residential and commercial development in Wanju. These are key developments for the future economic development of Greater Bunbury, with Wanju including up to 20,000 new homes for around 50,000 people.

The proposed Waterloo Industrial Precinct will deliver land for commercial, light and general industrial uses. With close proximity and accessibility to Wanju, Bunbury Port and the wider South-West region, Waterloo is expected to create 4,000 local jobs.

During construction, Bunbury Outer Ring Road will provide up to 4,750 direct and indirect employment opportunities, benefitting the local community. A key focus of the project delivery phase is to encourage and maximise local industry participation and Aboriginal employment and business opportunities.

In the long term, the new road will remove up to 11,000 vehicles per day from Robertson Drive. This will improve amenity and access to the South West Health and Education precinct, and support the use of healthier, sustainable transport modes including walking and cycling.

IMPROVED PORT ACCESS



EASE CONGESTION



IMPROVED SAFETY



Managing Change

Major road projects such as Bunbury Outer Ring Road result in change, especially for those communities living near the new route.

Main Roads commissioned a socio economic assessment of the project, to consider the impacts and opportunities for residents, businesses and industry. This study included stakeholder interviews with local businesses, interested stakeholders and residents affected by the proposed route. The assessment confirmed that with freight and regional traffic diverted onto BORR, the large majority of the Greater Bunbury community would benefit from reduced congestion (especially on weekends), improved travel times, safety and accessibility.

Communities on or close to the alignment include Meadow Landing in Roelands and Gelorup. These communities, and those living and operating businesses on existing agricultural / rural properties will experience a change in amenity with impacts including traffic noise, street lighting and changes to local access.

These impacts are acknowledged, and Main Roads is committed to manage, mitigate and minimise them as far as practicable. State planning policies seek to protect residents from excessive transport noise, and complying with these requirements is a key part of the environmental approvals process.

Effect on passing trade

The Bunbury Outer Ring Road will provide economic benefits to Greater Bunbury and the South West. However, an issue raised by stakeholders, and considered in the assessment is the impact upon businesses along the existing route and within Bunbury CBD caused by a potential reduction in passing trade.

To help quantify this, Main Roads carried out origin and destination surveys of current traffic patterns using vehicle number-plate recognition cameras. The surveys found that for through trips:

- around 60 per cent already drive through without stopping
- 30 per cent stop for up to one hour
- 10 per cent stop for more than one hour.

It is possible that some of the 30 per cent of trips that stop for up to an hour may stop elsewhere.

To help address these changes, the State Government has committed to provide prominent signing, and high quality landscaping to create entry statements at each end of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road. An Economic Advisory Group with members from Greater Bunbury local governments and local economic bodies has been established to help plan for these future changes.

Construction impacts

Whilst most construction will be off the existing road network, the scale of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road project is such that some disruption and delays will be experienced whilst it is being built.

Main Roads will endeavour to minimise these impacts and will provide advance notification to residents, businesses and road users. The contractor will liaise with directly affected landowners to discuss the construction program and explain how construction will be managed.

Environment & heritage

The Bunbury Outer Ring Road is subject to assessment by State and Federal environmental regulators. Work will only proceed once all of the necessary environmental and heritage approvals have been obtained. Main Roads is an environmentally accredited organisation and is committed to effectively managing its environmental impacts.

The project will include landscaping and revegetation along the route, the majority of which is previously cleared land. The landscaping design is aimed at:

- integrating networks - to create a corridor that connects and co-locates vegetation, waterways and pedestrian/ cyclist facilities to optimise road reserve land for environmental and social benefits.
- experiencing journey - to deliver a varied and interesting journey experience for road users that creates a sense of place.
- reflecting place - to showcase the rich cultural history and natural character of the Greater Bunbury Region.

Funding and Delivery

Bunbury Outer Ring Road is fully funded with a budget of \$852 million (20% State, 80% Commonwealth). Main Roads is working towards awarding a delivery contract in late 2020. Construction is subject to all environmental and heritage approvals being obtained.

The process of acquiring the land required for the project has begun, with Main Roads in discussion with owners.



27

KILOMETRE CORRIDOR



13

TRAFFIC LIGHTS BYPASSED



15

MINUTE TIME SAVINGS

\$89m

CRASH COST SAVINGS

\$700m

TRAVEL TIME SAVINGS



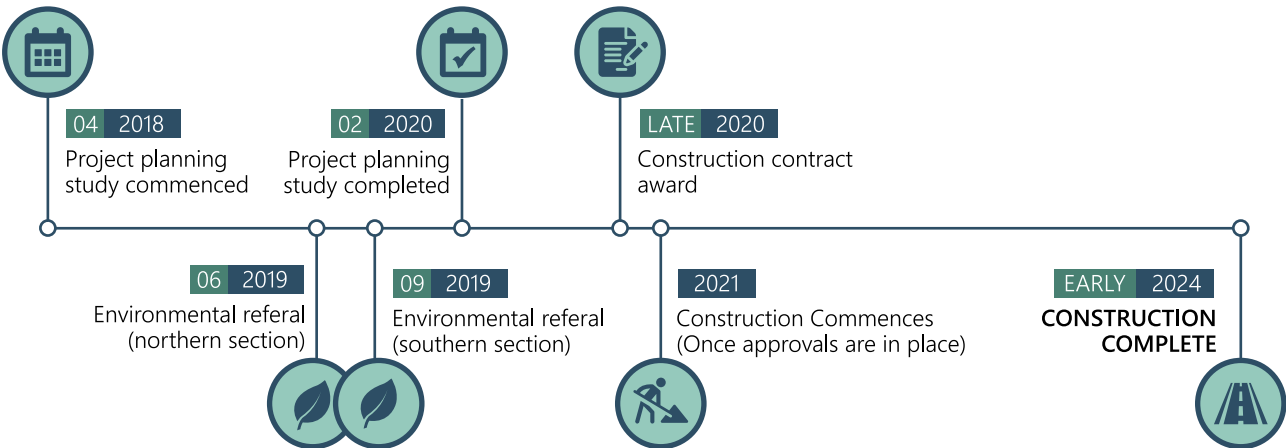
5,680

JOBS

Key benefits

- Safety improvements with less congestion and the separation of local and regional traffic
- Travel time savings of up to 15 minutes and bypassing 13 sets of traffic lights
- Productivity gains with a dedicated free-flowing freight route to the port
- Development opportunities for existing and proposed new industrial and residential areas
- Tourism opportunities with new and improved access to Bunbury Geographe, Margaret River region and the wider South West
- Business and employment opportunities for local and Aboriginal people

Key milestones and critical path items for delivery of BORR include:



Infrastructure Australia has identified Bunbury Outer Ring Road as a Priority Initiative – an opportunity of national significance. Development of a ring road on the outskirts of Bunbury will allow the separation of regional traffic (including vehicles accessing the Port of Bunbury) and local traffic, thereby providing road safety, travel-time and freight efficiency benefits.



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