



Project Overview

Project Overview: August 2013

Coalfields Highway Upgrade

Main Roads WA's South West Region's project to upgrade the Coalfields Highway to improve safety for all road users will continue in 2013.

In 2011, Main Roads completed the upgrade of Coalfields Highway between Allanson and Collie, and has since been undertaking project development works on remaining sections.

This project overview is designed to provide the Collie and surrounding communities with information on the next stages of the project, including background, rationale, timing and benefits. Once final design has been completed and Main Roads are ready to tender a contract for the works, further information will be supplied to community members and stakeholders.



Background and Rationale

Coalfields Highway is the major link between South Western Highway at Roelands and Collie, and connects the town of Collie with Bunbury Port. The highway provides access for mining industries, power stations, and commuter and freight operators employed in the Collie region, as well as providing a popular touring route with links to Wellington Dam and camp sites along the Collie River valley.

The upgrade of the Coalfields Highway has been ongoing over the last 30 years. Further improvements are required for several reasons:

- There are sections of narrow sealed width, unsealed shoulders and poor geometry (winding, tight curves and crests).
- To provide safer opportunities for road users to easily overtake slow vehicles.
- Increasing volumes of traffic are using the route, including more heavy vehicles and oversized loads servicing the mining, industrial and agricultural sectors.
- There is adjacent vegetation close to the edge of the road, including large trees that pose a traffic hazard to the road user.

The project will:

- Increase road user safety and reduce the number and severity of crashes.
- Cater for increasing traffic volumes.
- Meet changing transport needs, including reducing freight costs.





Scope of Works

The project will involve pre-construction works, such as land acquisition, service relocation, geotechnical investigations and a tender and contract award process.

Construction works are scheduled to commence in 2014 and will include clearing, earthworks, drainage, pavement construction, sealing and asphalt, line marking and signage, and landscaping and rehabilitation. There are five sections that are planned to be upgraded.

1) Wellington Dam Section

Works include:

- Reconstruction and realignment of three kilometres of road.
- Reinstatement of the existing westbound passing lane to the west of Wellington Dam Road.
- Extension to the eastbound passing lane in the Gastaldo West section.
- Upgrading the Wellington Dam Road intersection to provide a separate lane for right turn movements from Coalfields Highway.
- Reinstatement of Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) infrastructure (parking bay entrance, Munda Biddi Trail crossing, fire access tracks).

2) Gastaldo West Section

Works include:

- Reconstruction and realignment of two kilometres of road just east of Wellington Dam Road to Gastaldo Road.
- Reinstatement of the existing eastbound passing lane which will now be extended to start from the end of the Wellington Dam section.

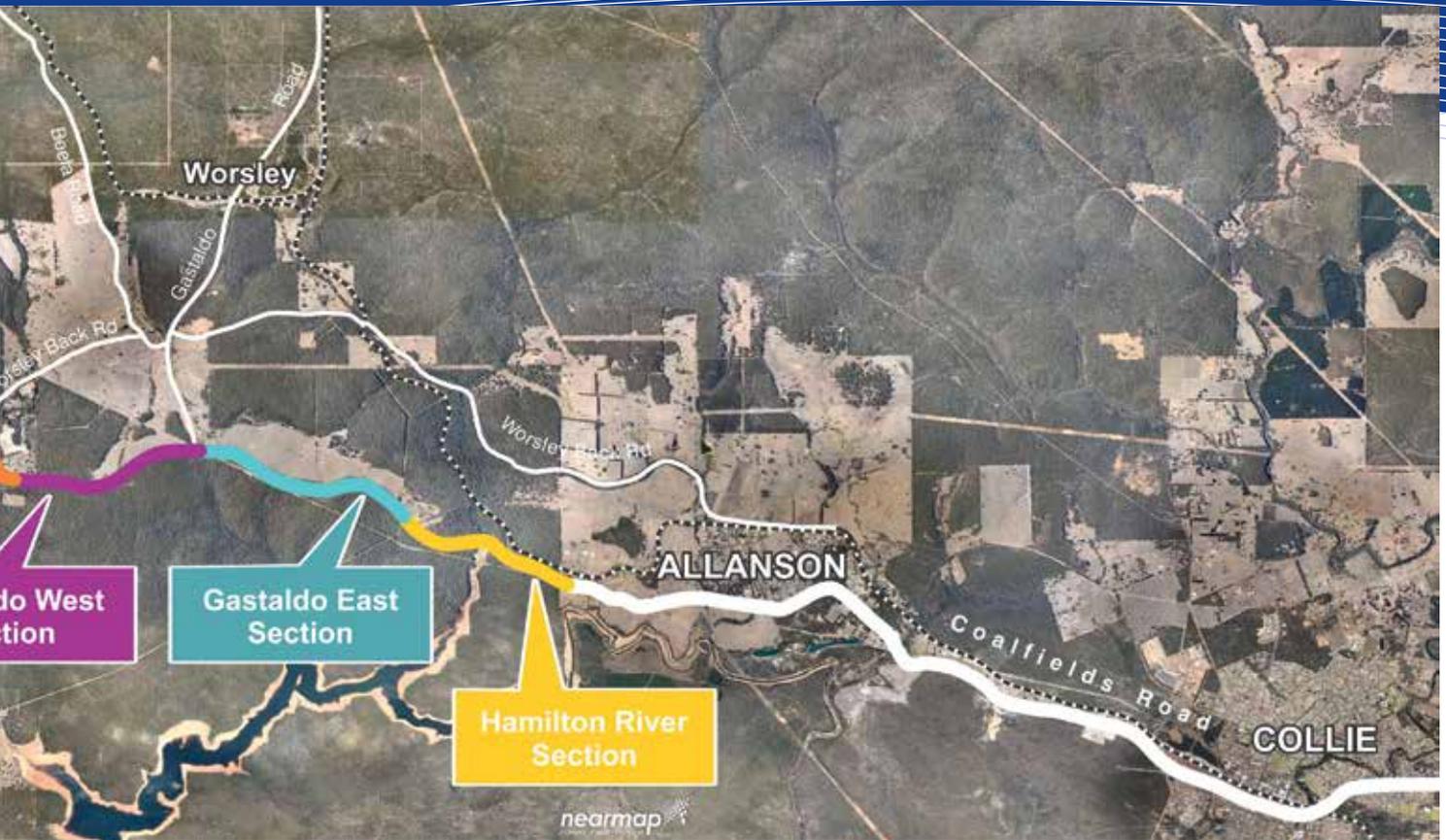
3) Gastaldo East Section

Works include:

- Reconstruction and realignment of three kilometres of road from Gastaldo Road to the water pipeline crossing.
- Reinstatement of the existing westbound passing lane that starts in the Hamilton River section.

As part of Gastaldo West and East which are intended to be completed concurrently, there is a proposal to upgrade the Gastaldo Road intersection to include a right turn acceleration lane for vehicles turning right onto the Coalfields Highway.





4) Hamilton River Section

Works include:

- Reconstruction and realignment of 2.5 kilometres of road from water pipeline to the recently completed Shine's section realignment.
- Reinstatement of the existing eastbound passing lane (east of the Hamilton River crossing).
- Construction of an extension to the existing westbound passing lane that extends into the Gastaldo East section.
- Construction of an improved access from the highway for the DPaW campsite just east of the Hamilton River crossing.
- Rationalisation of DPaW management tracks.

5) Roelands Hill Section

Works are scheduled to commence in January 2014 to extend the climbing lane on Roelands Hill.

The four kilometre extension starts prior to the truck pull-off bay, and will join the two existing climbing lanes to create a continuous 7km long dual lane over Roelands Hill. A sealed shoulder will be provided to enhance safety for motorists and cyclists. Environmental impacts are minimal, but approvals

are being sought for the works, and a rehabilitation and revegetation program will be undertaken.

This section is expected to take 20 weeks to complete, and the impact on highway users will be significant. Main Roads will be advising highway users via newsletters, Variable Message Signs and briefings with stakeholders prior to construction.

Managing Impacts

Main Roads will be managing all social, environmental and economic impacts, including:

- Minimising potential impact on the Wellington National Park and potential habitats for black cockatoos.
- Minimising impacts and continuing consultation with affected landowners (regarding property access and land acquisition) and Aboriginal representatives.
- Providing updated information to the community about roadworks and impacts to road user journeys.
- Park management (fire access, Munda Biddi Trail) in close consultation with the local DPaW representatives.



Timing and Benefits

Further to the \$25 million allocation previously announced, the 2013/14 State Budget has confirmed that an additional \$28 million will be provided to continue upgrading works on the Highway. The following delivery timeframe is planned:

- 2013/14 – Roelands Hill (Section 5).
- 2014/15 – Wellington and Hamilton Sections (Sections 1 & 4).
- 2015/16 – Gastaldo Sections (Sections 2 & 3).

Main Roads will advise affected landowners and the community about construction details and road access through the area.

The project benefits include:

- Heightened road safety for all users.
- Reduced impact of road crashes on road users.
- Greater transport efficiency, including reduced freight costs.

Further Information

Roadworks information will be provided to the community on a regular basis via Variable Message Signs on site, advertising in the local media and on the Main Roads website at www.mainroads.wa.gov.au

Main Roads will continue to liaise with landowners and community members as the project progresses, and welcomes queries from the community about this project.

If you would like further information, please contact:
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