

Project Update

Project Update: September 2014

Coalfields Highway Upgrade

Main Roads WA's project to upgrade the Coalfields Highway to improve safety will continue this summer with clearing of the new alignment and the construction of part of the new causeway across the Hamilton River west of Allanson.

Hamilton River Causeway



On 9 June 2014, Main Roads' contractors commenced preliminary construction activities at the Hamilton River site. Works included preparing access tracks, hardstand areas, stockpiling materials, as well as installing two coffer dams to aid with dewatering the site. Work was advancing well and the construction of the new culvert and embankment causeway had commenced when significant rainfall in the Hamilton River catchment resulted in works being postponed for winter.

It is anticipated that works will re-commence in September 2014, including clearing of the new Hamilton River section alignment, following approval by the Department of Environment Regulation, and the land excision from Wellington National Park having cleared the parliamentary process.

During the works, vehicular access to the Hamilton Peninsula (refer map on page 2) will be temporarily closed. The closure is needed to ensure the safety of the public.

(continued overleaf)





Map of Hamilton River works

These arrangements have been put in place in consultation with the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW). Main Roads apologises in advance to peninsula visitors for any inconvenience this may cause.

The area immediately south of the existing Hamilton River crossing remains a construction site and as such is permanently closed until the new alignment is opened to the public in 2015.

Remaining Works

Clearing and Pre-works (see map page 4)

Clearing of the new alignments and off road drainage works will commence in September 2014, now that approval has been granted by the Department of Environment Regulation, and the land excision from the Wellington National Park has passed through Parliament.

While most of the clearing work will occur away from the existing road, traffic management will be required where the new alignment intersects the existing road. Some minor delays may be experienced by road users.

For the safety of workers and other road users, Main Roads asks motorists to take care when passing through these sections and to please obey the directions of traffic management personnel.

Hamilton River Section

Works to complete the Hamilton River Section may also commence this summer, subject to appropriate approvals being obtained. Remaining activities will include earthworks, drainage, pavement construction, barriers, signs, line marking and rehabilitation.

It is anticipated that the works may cause disruptions to normal operations on Coalfields Highway with significant portions of the new alignment overlaying the existing road. Main Roads will advise further of the timing of the works when a contract has been awarded.



Project Background and History

The Coalfields Highway Upgrade is a \$53 million project that is expected to increase safety, provide more opportunities for drivers to overtake slower vehicles, and ultimately reduce the number and severity of crashes. Main Roads recently completed a section of the upgrade with the 4km extension of the existing climbing lane on Roelands Hill opening to traffic in May 2014. Improvements to the section from just west of Allanson to Collie were completed in 2012.

Funding and Timing

Further to the \$25 million allocation initially announced, the 2013/14 State Budget confirmed that an additional \$28 million would be provided to continue upgrading works on the Highway with the following delivery timeframe:

- 2013/14 – Roelands Hill (complete).
- 2014/15 – Wellington and Hamilton Sections
- 2015/16 – Gastaldo Sections

Now that the excision of land from the National Park is in its final stages, Main Roads can prepare contracts to deliver the remaining works, with construction expected to start in 2015. The project is likely to be completed by late 2016.

Project Need

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 provide a range of benefits, including:

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



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.

Community Contact

Main Roads plans to provide roadworks information to the community on a regular basis via Variable Message Signs on site, and if appropriate, advertising in the local media. Our web page will also be updated as work progresses. We welcome queries or feedback from the community. We encourage local businesses and residents to register for our email database to receive updates as the work progresses.

Please contact Carolyn Walker on: Phone: (08) 9450 1445 (8am-6pm) or email: icwalker@vianet.net.au

