With the road now fully opened, more than 26,000 vehicles a day are taking advantage of the new Wanneroo Road dual lanes and upgraded intersections at Golf Links Drive and Carramar Road. Journeys are noticeably more efficient and reliable in this area for northern suburbs residents and workers.

Wanneroo Road is an important north-south alternative to the Mitchell Freeway. Removing a dangerous pinch point as part of the works is expected to provide safety improvements particularly with increasing traffic volumes.

Appreciation for community input
A behind the scenes tour was conducted for the Construction Reference Group (CRG) to thank each member for their time and commitment to the project. Before the road was opened to the public, Construction Manager, Simon Timpano and Project Manager, John Robertson led the CRG members on a walking tour to show them firsthand the newly constructed infrastructure and answer their questions. The dedication of these community members has contributed to the successful delivery of the project, particularly in the areas of urban design, landscaping and construction staging.

Membership of the CRG included local residents, businesses, as well as representatives from the City of Wanneroo and LandCorp.

What is the speed limit on Wanneroo Road between Joondalup Drive and Flynn Drive?

Between April and June 2019 the speed limit within the project area was signed at 60km/h. This was to allow road users to adjust to the new and unfamiliar road conditions and facilitate the safe completion of shared path construction and minor finishing work. This setting in period and final work phase is now complete so the ultimate speed limit has been posted.

The speed limit on Wanneroo Road is signed at 70 km/h between Joondalup Drive and Carramar Road and 80 km/h between Carramar Road and Flynn Drive. See the map for speed zones.

Complementary works: Wanneroo Road and Joondalup Drive Interchange project

The upgrade of the Wanneroo Road and Joondalup Drive intersection is jointly funded by the Australian ($40 million) and State ($10 million) governments and is expected to be complete by mid-2020. The project is still on track, with a temporary roundabout currently in place to allow for construction of the new bridge along Joondalup Drive. Once the bridge is complete, works will start on the permanent roundabout under the bridge. Running concurrently will be the installation of traffic lights at Clarkson Avenue/Wanneroo Road, roundabout at Cheriton Drive/Joondalup Drive, and upgrade of Burns Beach Road roundabout.

For more information and to stay updated on the project visit https://project.mainroads.wa.gov.au/home

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Landscaping complete

When the winter rain arrived in June 2019, the road alignment was landscaped and some positive environmental outcomes were realised. Topsoil that had been stripped for construction and stockpiled was re-used for seeding and planting. Likewise, where trees had been removed, they were mulched and this material was spread for planting.

The aim of the landscaping and revegetation design was to enhance the built environment, reinstate disturbed areas, as well as reflect the surrounding environment. The design includes:

- Feature planting to create nodes of wildflowers and silvery grey accents.
- Over 500 Tuart, Marri and Jarrah seedlings to provide future canopy to shade the roadside.
- These seedlings are in addition to over 6,000 native tube stock plants.
- The revegetation treatment will restore natural vegetation, especially adjoining the Bush Forever site.

Tube stock was selected to obtain the best results for survival and strong growth. Within twelve months, tube stock is expected to have reached the same size as more mature plants but be better established. The team will maintain the landscaping for three years to monitor plant development and seed germination, control weeds and sustain density levels as per the design and planting.

Before clearing, thorough inspections were conducted to identify native species that could be retained during construction. For example the embankment design was altered for some eucalypts and grass trees to be kept. The design of the path was also realigned to retain trees. Due to these efforts, this native vegetation still forms part of the local landscape.

It is anticipated that in years to come the vegetation will aesthetically match the natural landscape nearby this section of Wanneroo Road with enhanced scenic views to the large, existing trees and bushland.

Local feathered residents

Respect for the environment was a focus throughout project delivery. The team took great care with fauna by undertaking trapping prior to any clearing and relocating all native fauna to the adjoining Bush Forever site. Native vegetation was retained where possible to protect local species. One memorable experience that embodies this care for the environment involves the endangered Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo.

Prior to the necessary clearing work, potential black cockatoo foraging habitat and potential breeding trees were identified and noted. On an inspection walk ahead of clearing work, cockatoos were found nesting in a hollow of a large tree within five metres of the future road alignment. To protect them and make sure they were not disturbed during nesting, a buffer zone was set up around the tree. The whole team was made aware of the sensitivity of this area and construction activities were carefully planned to avoid the buffer area.

The tree was monitored for daily activity, via a camera, particularly at dusk. The cockatoos nested in the tree for around six months and in Autumn last year a baby cockatoo emerged from the hollow. Once the monitoring revealed that the young bird was capable of flight, the buffer zone was removed and work continued in the area.

Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo

Accessing the new shared path

A shared path has been built along the eastern side of Wanneroo Road between Joondalup Drive and Neerabup Road / Flynn Drive. Connectivity has been provided to the shared path via footpaths from the local road network at the following locations:

- Monaltrie Loop
- Yarra Court
- Kokor Court
- Balladong Loop
- Coolamine Close
- Golf Links Drive, Carramar Road and Joondalup Drive.

Planting tube stock and seedling, June 2019

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