

NorthLink WA Fact Sheet

NOISE AND SCREEN WALLS

As part of NorthLink WA, noise and screen walls will be installed in various locations to reduce traffic noise and provide privacy screening for local residents.

What is a noise wall?

A noise wall is a structure built between the road and a residential property to reduce traffic noise to the resident. The sound waves from the road are forced to travel around the edges of the walls, reducing the noise. The level of noise reduction achieved through the installation of noise walls is dependent on a number of factors, including length and height of the wall.

What is a screen wall?

A screen wall is provided to protect a resident's privacy from passing traffic. Screen walls are generally constructed of the same material as noise walls.

What will the noise/screen walls look like?

The majority of the walls will be made of concrete panels and steel posts. Generally, the residential side of the wall will be a painted or coloured concrete finish in a neutral tone. The noise/screen walls on the roadside will be a combination of plain and patterned and have a painted finish.

Why do noise/screen walls need to be installed?

Noise modelling has identified the need to install the wall near some residential properties to reduce traffic noise and provide a privacy screen between your property and the Tonkin Highway. The wall will be built in accordance with the noise level limits required by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) Road and Rail Noise Policy (State Planning Policy 5.4).

Where will the noise/screen walls be located?

The noise/screen walls will be installed in various locations along the Tonkin Highway between the road and residential properties. The positioning of the walls relative to residential properties is dependent on the road design and the available road reserve. The tight constraints of the existing road reserve means that many noise/screen walls are installed along the outside of property boundaries.

How high will the noise/screen walls be?

The height of the noise/screen walls will start at 2.4m and will vary along the alignment depending on the distance between residential properties and the highway, and the location of the properties in relation to the new road levels. The noise walls have been designed to reduce the impact of noise levels predicted on the highway up to 2040.

How do you know which properties get noise walls?

Extensive noise modelling by acoustic experts has determined the location and height of the noise walls to be installed for this project to meet State Planning Policy 5.4.

How will the walls be constructed?

This depends on where the walls will be located. In locations where the wall is offset from the existing residential fence, the construction team will be able to access the work from the road reserve. The project team will make every effort to reduce the impacts of construction. Where walls are to be constructed on property boundaries, we will seek permission to access the property and make arrangements to construct the walls with minimum impact on residents.

The \$1.12b NorthLink WA initiative is jointly funded by the Australian (\$894m) and Western Australian (\$223m) governments.

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