

Frequently Asked Questions

1. PROJECT TIMEFRAMES

1.1 When did construction of the NPBH commence?

Planning, design and community consultation have been undertaken over a number of years. However, construction works commenced in late December 2006.

1.2 When will construction be completed?

It is anticipated that major construction work will be completed by the end of 2009.

1.3 When will the highway be open to traffic?

It is anticipated the NPBH will be opened to traffic by the end of 2009. To meet this timeframe, construction will need to occur on both the northern and the southern sections of the alignment simultaneously.

1.4 Will the highway be constructed in stages/phases (like Roe Highway)?

The full length of the highway will open to traffic at the same time. Construction works will be undertaken concurrently along various sections of the highway to ensure construction timeframes are met. Four project site offices are located along the NPBH alignment to enable work crews to work efficiently through improved accessibility and location to the alignment.


1.5 Where/When will traffic be disrupted through the construction phase?

It is expected there will be minimal disruption to road users during the construction phase. Wherever possible, SGA will advise the community of impending traffic modifications through advertisements, the internet and distribution of monthly project update information sheets.

2. HIGHWAY DETAILS

2.1 Where exactly will the highway be located in reference to other main roads?

The NPBH will complete the high standard inter-regional road link between Perth and the south west, bypassing the heavily populated areas in Mandurah and the Dawesville Peninsula, and avoiding the inland communities on South Western Highway.



The NPBH will extend the dual carriageway from Kwinana Freeway at Safety Bay Road (where the freeway currently ends), around the eastern side of the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary for 70.5 kilometres to join the existing dual carriageway on the Old Coast Road near Lake Clifton.

Once constructed, the NPBH will provide a safe, free-flowing alternative route for regional traffic, helping to relieve increasing traffic pressure and congestion on the existing Old Coast Road and South Western Highway.

2.2 What is the total length of the highway?

The total length of the NPBH is approximately 70.5 kilometres.

2.3 How much time will I save by using the highway when it is completed?

The construction of the NPBH is predicted to make the trip to Bunbury from Perth approximately 30 minutes faster than using Old Coast Road, as there will be no traffic signals or speed reductions through urban areas.

This saving will be significantly greater during peak periods, such as long weekends and major holidays, when traffic volumes are much higher and have previously resulted in traffic slowing to a crawl through Mandurah.

2.4 Where will the current freeway end?

The NPBH is a continuation of the Kwinana Freeway which presently terminates at Safety Bay Road, Baldivis. The NPBH will be constructed to a freeway standard from Safety Bay Road to South Yunderup Road approximately 32km, with the remainder of the route approximately 38.5km being built

to a rural highway standard. In the future as traffic demands increase, the NPBH will be upgraded to freeway standard for its entire length.

2.5 What organisation is responsible for building this road?

Southern Gateway Alliance (SGA) was awarded the contract to deliver the NPBH as a result of a vigorous and competitive selection process. SGA is comprised of Leighton Contractors, GHD, WA Limestone and Main Roads.

2.6 Will the NPBH be a single or dual lane carriageway?

The NPBH will be a dual lane carriageway, featuring two lanes in each direction for its entire length.

2.7 Will there be traffic lights along the highway?

It is anticipated that no traffic lights will be installed along the NPBH with exception to the on and off ramps. To reduce travel time it is also expected there will be no reduction in speed limits within rural areas.

2.8 Where will interchanges be constructed?

The NPBH will feature five interchanges located at Safety Bay Road, Karnup Road, Paganoni Road, Lakes Road and Pinjarra Road.

2.9 Where will intersections be constructed?

Nine intersections will be constructed as part of the NPBH, which will have the capacity to be upgraded to interchanges in the future. They are located at Beacham Road, Greenlands Road, Paull Road, Mills Road, Herron Point Road, Old Bunbury Road, Dorsett Road, Old Coast Road and Peppermint Grove Road.

2.10 I heard there will be a new road constructed as the main entry point for the Mandurah area?

Connection to Mandurah is proposed initially via Paganoni Road and Lakes Road.

Planning for the project has allowed for additional interchanges to be constructed at Anstey Road and the Mandurah Entrance Road (Road A). However, these interchanges will be built in the future and are not part of the project scope.

2.11 Where will bridges be constructed?

Bridges will be built to extend the NPBH over the Serpentine River, Nambeelup Brook, Murray River/ Pinjarra Road, South Yunderup Road, Murray River floodplain, Harvey River and a number of Water Corporation drains. 19 bridges in total will be built as part of the NPBH.

3. COMMUNITY RELATIONS

3.1 How can I get information about the NPBH project?

SGA has held a number of public information sessions regarding the construction of the NPBH.

Members of the public can also contact the Community Relations team on freecall number: 1800 671 211

The Community Relations team also produces a monthly project update and members of the public can request a copy by emailing and registering their interest to: enquiries@sga.incite.com.au

Specific community consultation may be held in particular areas potentially impacted by construction of the NPBH. In such cases, the Community Relations team will advise stakeholders by letter or telephone to invite their contribution.

3.2 I wish to be kept up to date with the project progress what is the best form of communication?

There are number of ways you can be kept up to date with the latest project progress. You can either choose to be included in the email distribution list, postal distribution lists and/or review the project internet www.sgalliance.com.au (*currently under construction*). All mediums will endeavour to keep the public informed of project progress, milestones and any impact to road users and land owners. The Main Roads' website www.mainroads.wa.gov.au also provides an excellent source of up to date information.

3.3 Is there ongoing stakeholder engagement?

Engaging the community and building relationships with stakeholders is vital to the success of the NPBH. For this reason the project includes a comprehensive consultation program.

SGA also employs a full-time Landowner Liaison Officer who provides both a personal and direct conduit for landowners potentially affected by construction of the NPBH.

Community information sessions have been held at a number of local venues throughout 2005, 2006 and 2007 providing the opportunity for residents to learn more about the project and raise any matters of importance.

Members of the public are invited to submit any comments regarding construction of the NPBH to the project team for consideration.

Two Technical Working Groups have been formed to obtain local input from key stakeholders, including the local government authorities. These groups are working with SGA to manage

engineering and planning issues, and to develop the environmental management strategies for the project.

3.4 I have a business in the region how can I find out about work opportunities?

Construction of the NPBH presents real opportunities to expand capability within the Peel and South West regions by maximising the involvement of local and regional industry and creating local employment opportunities.

Businesses seeking opportunities to work with the NPBH can register their interest by contacting the Community Relations team on: 1800 671 211 and providing details of goods and services, rates, and expertise to be considered for forthcoming opportunities.

4. LANDOWNER CONCERNS

4.1 What impact will construction of the NPBH have to my property?

Potential impacts will be evaluated dependent on your property or residences' location to the NPBH alignment.

A member of SGA's Community Relations team will be able to assess your particular situation based on the property information provided. Enquiries can be made by calling SGA's freecall number: 1800 671 211

4.2 Will there be noise walls erected along the highway?

Yes, noise modelling has been undertaken and as a result, specific locations have been identified where noise barrier treatments will be installed.

4.3 I am interested in purchasing land down south, what impact, if any, will the NPBH have?

Most of the land required to deliver the NPBH has been

acquired by Main Roads. However, land acquisition is only one such impact and other factors may affect your amenity. We recommend you contact SGA to discuss the potential impacts the highway may have on your particular property.

4.4 Will SGA revegetate areas disturbed by construction?

The Alliance has committed to revegetate areas that have been cleared once construction is complete.

Disturbance of the natural environment will be reviewed and where possible will be kept to a minimum.

5.0 GENERAL QUESTIONS

5.1 Does construction of the NPBH adversely affect the environment? If so, what measures is SGA undertaking to minimise environmental disturbance?

Construction of the NPBH project has received environmental approval from both the State Government and Commonwealth.

The Alliance is continuing to work collaboratively with the relevant environmental authorities to obtain the various permits and licences required for construction activities.

The Alliance also works closely with local environmental authorities and interest groups to identify opportunities to minimise construction impacts and create legacy projects.

Additional initiatives underway include the installation of fauna fencing throughout the alignment to ensure safe and secure passage for fauna impacted by construction of the NPBH.

SGA has also translocated native Grass Trees within the alignment to ensure protection of the species. To date, 190 Grass Trees have been relocated as one of SGA's environmental initiatives.

Providing alternative breeding habitats for the south west native Carnaby's Cockatoo is another environmental initiative in progress. SGA has installed replacement cockatoo nesting boxes for birds affected by the construction of the NPBH.

Further supporting NPBH's environmental strategy is the direction provided through a series of comprehensive Environmental Management Plans (EMP) which consider:

- vegetation;
- rehabilitation and landscape;
- top soil;
- surface water;
- foreshore water;
- fauna;
- european heritage;
- dieback and weed;
- cave;
- aboriginal heritage; and
- construction (dust, noise and vibration).

5.7 What safety measures/ initiatives is SGA implementing during construction of the NPBH?

SGA operates with a 'Zero Harm' policy endorsing a 'Safety's Good for All' philosophy within the workplace. The Alliance is committed to safety initiatives and regularly monitors safety practices. A Safety Bulletin is distributed to all personnel employed on the NPBH advising of new developments and a series of action plans are currently under development.

SGA promotes the following safety declaration;

We declare that it is possible for us to:

- have zero incidents in trucking from now till the end of the job;
- achieve our production targets and rates; and
- ensure our team is:
 - profitable;
 - fit to work;
 - competent;
- using equipment that is 'fit for purpose'; and
- committed to working as part of a team and following procedures that are right for this job.

5.8 Does construction of the NPBH provide local employment opportunities? If so, where can I find this information and who do I contact?

Yes, opportunities presently exist to become part of one of WA's iconic projects.

SGA seeks qualified staff as demanded by the project's immediate needs. People with experience in road construction, bridge and civil structures are encouraged to apply as future and current opportunities arise. SGA asks that applicants be committed to excellence in the workplace, have a solid work history and work ethic. It is mandatory for all applicants to have attained a current construction industry "SAFETY AWARENESS TRAINING" Blue Card.

Expressions of interest can be lodged to:

[Alan Burgess](mailto:alan.burgess@leicon.com.au)
Recruitment Superintendent
Southern Gateway Alliance
105 Kurnall Road,
WELSHPOOL WA 6106
Fax: (08) 9333 2359
E-mail:
alan.burgess@leicon.com.au

5.9 How do I access the NPBH?

Depending on where you are travelling from, access to the NPBH will be available from a selection of entry points. Specific entry and exit information is available through NPBH's fact sheet 'How can I access the New Perth Bunbury Highway (NPBH)?'

Further information

Please contact the
Community Relations team
Phone: Project Infoline
1800 671 211
Email: enquiries@sga.incite.com.au
www.sgalliance.com.au

