



Project Update

November 2007

General news items

QUICK FACTS

To date the team has:

- cleared 66 kilometres (approximately 90 per cent) of the alignment;
- fenced 47 kilometres of land (approximately 67 per cent) of the alignment;
- laid 60 kilometres of haulage road (approximately 85 per cent) of the alignment;
- driven 68 piles into the ground to construct the Serpentine River bridge in the northern section of the NPBH project; and
- driven 164 piles into the ground to construct the Murray River bridge in the southern section of the NPBH project.

Improving conditions for road users – sealing and sweeping roads

In response to community concerns, SGA has increased road sweeping activities in Baldivis and sealed the entrance to the quarry on Harvey Road. The sealing was completed in early November and involved laying 1.5 kilometres and 650 tonnes of asphalt and prime seal.

Sealing the road is expected to minimise the amount of material carried over onto the public roads in Baldivis, which should help to reduce dust.

Below – Laying bitumen and prime seal on the entry to the Baldivis pit.



NEW
PerthBunbury
HIGHWAY



Project progress – community information sessions

Community groups and local clubs are invited to register their interest to have a member of the SGA team attend their next meeting, event or information session to provide an overview of NPBH.

A typical presentation will include a PowerPoint display outlining the scope and progress of the project, including key facts and figures, aerial and on-site photos. Residents will also have the opportunity to raise questions within a relaxed and informal environment.

For further information or to register your group's interest contact the Community Relations Liaison Officer, Aimee Rosair on freecall: 1800 671 211 or email enquiries@sga.incite.com.au

Northern Section

Drakaea elastica – preservation and relocation

Spring flora surveys identified populations of *Drakaea elastica* within the northern section of the NPBH project at Paganoni Reserve, Lakes Road interchange and within regional open space on the Serpentine River. In keeping with SGA's Environmental and Sustainability Policies, the Alliance attached a high priority to the discovery and sought to minimise impact by modifying the design where possible.

In October 2007, the Alliance was granted an approval permit by the State and Federal Government to collect and transplant whole plants, soil-stored seed and ground tubers from the NPBH road reserve north of Lakes Road, Lakelands.

In November members of SGA's environmental team conducted a carefully planned and executed recovery of approximately 130 plants by hand for relocation from the Lakelands area. The plants were salvaged in conjunction with the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) for research and relocation.

Below – One of SGA's environmental team members prepares the petite Drakaea elastica for relocation.



Above – The start of the project, Safety Bay Road interchange, looking south.

Safety Bay Road interchange – tonnes of sand and new nests

Construction of the Safety Bay Road interchange has progressed rapidly with all clearing now complete. During the clearing process an uninhabited bird nest hollow was identified and removed from the area. As a result of the discovery, SGA's environmental team has since purchased and installed six artificial nesting hollows in adjacent trees to encourage breeding birds back into the region. The team has also provided the local bat community with two specifically designed bat boxes to cater for breeding within the area.

As a safety precaution, 800 metres of temporary fencing has been installed along the Kwinana Freeway at Safety Bay Road to prevent unnecessary intrusion into the construction zone. The fencing will remain in place until completion of the interchange.

To date, 236,000 tonnes of sand has been imported into the area, with an additional 396,000 tonnes required to complete the bulk earthworks required for the interchange.

Southern Section

Piling works – South Yunderup bridge progresses

Piling works have now commenced on the bridge over South Yunderup Road. Throughout the course of construction a total of 250 piles will be driven up to 20 metres into the ground. It is anticipated works will be complete in December 2007.

The bridge is a blade pier featuring a precast beam bridge with spans of up to 33 metres in length consisting of two separate structures, one northbound and one southbound. Each structure will be 220 metres in length and comprised of two lanes.

Residents within the immediate vicinity can expect some noise to be generated from the hydraulic pile hammer. The Alliance recognises this noise may cause disruption and will endeavour to minimise the disturbance and complete works as promptly as possible.

In the interests of safety, traffic management will be in place on South Yunderup Road with piling works segregated from the roadway by concrete barriers.

Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) – Mayfield Drains special community

A Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) exists close to the NPBH alignment between Hill Road and Mayfield Drain. The area features a unique combination of native vegetation including; *Kingia australis*, *banksia ilicifolia*, *menziesii* and *attenuata*, *Melaleuca preissiana* and *Eucalyptus calophylla marri*.

The TEC was at risk due to the long term impact of farming activity, which over time had left the land degraded.

Recognising the sensitivity of this environment and its proximity to the NPBH, the Alliance has invested expertise and resources to relocate native plants from the clearing zone back into the road reserve. Since August 2007, SGA has transplanted 141 plants to enhance and preserve the native vegetation within this unique habitat.

Below – The TEC featuring Grass tree species *Kingia australis*



Below – Piling at South Yunderup Bridge





Visions of progress – aerial snapshots of the NPBH



Above – The end of the project, Old Coast Road, looking south.



Above – A view from Greenlands Road, looking south.



Above – Looking south from Stock Road, Parklands.



Above – Construction of the Murray River bridge.

Further information



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

