

# MEDIA STATEMENT



Wednesday, 1 June 2016

## **Koombana Drive to remain open during upgrade**

An urgent upgrade to Koombana Drive is expected to begin in less than a month after Bunbury City Council last night accepted a tender that will keep the road open to two lanes of traffic during construction.

Ertech Holdings will carry out the work at a cost of \$3.14 million, which is under the City's forecast budget.

The successful tender includes keeping two lanes of traffic open during the entirety of the project, which is expected to take 20 weeks.

Dedicated cycleways and replacing the George Baxter Boardwalk will be features of the upgrade, along with a new roundabout that will allow better access to the Dolphin Discovery Centre and the planned Department of Parks and Wildlife headquarters.

The scope of works also includes a new marine wall; demolition of the existing boardwalk to make way for a new land-based path; widening of a 600m stretch of Koombana Drive between Estuary Drive and the Dolphin Discovery Centre; the construction of two cycleways; and a median strip with street lighting.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said erosion from the Leschenault Inlet and stormwater runoff had deteriorated the road embankment and compromised the road surface, while also impacting on the timber piles supporting the boardwalk.

"Koombana Drive is a key route into the CBD and the upgrade will also take into account accessibility with dedicated cycling lanes catering for the growing number of riders in the city.

"The boardwalk is also a popular attraction for joggers and those who enjoy the walk around the Leschenault Inlet. It is vital this important community asset is safe and of a high standard."

Mr Brennan said he was impressed with the number of tenders submitted and the quality of work proposed, which had led to Bunbury City Council choosing the option to maintain traffic flow during construction.

"Throughout this process we have prepared people for the possibility of a complete closure, but I am delighted the work can be carried out with two lanes of traffic open," he said.

"We asked tenderers to be creative in their proposals and that is what we got. It is fantastic that the work has scope to be achieved in the timeframe specified and with the least amount of disruption to traffic."

Preparations for construction will begin in earnest with the City of Bunbury embarking on a three-week project to relocate a water main.

Jamie Tatham, Communications Officer

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This will involve the removal of vegetation on the port side of Koombana Drive with some traffic management required at various stages of the work.

Mr Brennan said the upgrade marked the first of many construction projects along Koombana Drive.

“We should see the start of construction of Koombana North this calendar year, with the waterfront redevelopment and construction of the Parks and Wildlife Headquarters expected to follow soon after,” he said.

Pedestrians are being reminded that once work begins, access to the George Baxter Boardwalk will not be available.

“We appreciate that the boardwalk is a popular attraction as people walk, run or ride around the Inlet, however, it does need to be removed for safety reasons,” Mr Brennan said.

“While we understand the lack of a pedestrian path on this side of the Inlet for a period of time will be an inconvenience, the public can be assured it will be replaced with a modern path that all members of the community can use.”

The community will be advised of the exact construction dates following a meeting between the City and Ertech.

**ENDS**

Jamie Tatham, Communications Officer

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