

MEDIA STATEMENT



Wednesday, 20 July 2016

Koombana Drive upgrade about to begin

Urgent work to upgrade Koombana Drive is set to begin in earnest with contractor Ertech on site from Monday, 25 July ready to commence one of the biggest infrastructure projects carried out in the City of Bunbury for several years.

Work is expected to continue until the end of November and will involve the construction of a new marine wall; replacing the George Baxter Boardwalk with a new land-based promenade; widening a stretch of Koombana Drive; and the construction of two cycleways.

A new roundabout will also be constructed to allow better access to the Dolphin Discovery Centre and the new Department of Parks and Wildlife headquarters.

Koombana Drive will remain open to traffic throughout the upgrade with reduced speed limits and traffic management in place. The boardwalk, however, will be closed to the public from Monday, 8 August and re-open at the end of the project.

The upgrade is required as erosion from the Leschenault Inlet and stormwater runoff has deteriorated the road embankment and compromised the road surface, while also impacting on the timber piles supporting the George Baxter Boardwalk.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said it was important this key route into the CBD was safe and accessible for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

“While we understand this work will cause some inconvenience, the end result will be vastly improved access to the CBD for motorists and cyclists while also providing a safe route for the many people who enjoy the beautiful walk or run around the Leschenault Inlet,” Mr Brennan said.

Dedicated cycling lanes will be a key feature of the upgraded road and have been included to cater for the growing number of riders in the city.

“Cyclists currently have to ride with vehicular traffic on this stretch of road and providing dedicated lanes will greatly improve safety,” Mr Brennan said.

Riders are being urged to take alternative routes into the CBD, such as Austral Parade, during construction as the road surface will not be suitable for riding on.

Jamie Tatham, Communications Officer

T: 9792 7136 **T:** 0447 936 037 **E:** jtatham@bunbury.wa.gov.au

4 Stephen Street, Bunbury WA 6230 - PO Box 21 Bunbury WA 6231

TTY: 13 36 77 **F:** (08) 9792 7184 **W:** www.bunbury.wa.gov.au

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Along with the dedicated bike lanes, cyclists will also be able to use a new multi-use, land-based promenade to be constructed on the banks of the Leschenault Inlet once the project is completed.

“We understand that the current boardwalk is a popular attraction, however, it does need to be replaced for safety reasons,” Mr Brennan said.

“The new promenade will have ample separation from traffic and all users will still be able to enjoy the unique experience of walking, running or riding around the Inlet.”

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 plans for the waterfront redevelopment and construction of the Parks and Wildlife Headquarters also well advanced,” he said.

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