

MEDIA STATEMENT



Wednesday, 27 April 2016

Motorists urged to plan ahead as Koombana Drive roadworks get closer

Motorists are being encouraged to start thinking about alternative routes into the Bunbury CBD with a start date for a major upgrade to Koombana Drive expected next month.

The road is in urgent need of repair with erosion from the Leschenault Inlet and stormwater runoff causing deterioration to the embankment and compromising the road surface, while also impacting on the timber piles supporting the George Baxter Boardwalk.

Bunbury City Council is expected to sign off on the successful construction tender at the end of May, which will then give a clear picture of the closure and timeline for works.

While the City of Bunbury has prepared for the complete closure of Koombana Drive to all traffic, Mayor Gary Brennan said the City was hoping to hear all options from possible contractors.

“If the work can be safely engineered in a creative way that will keep road closures to a minimum, then let’s hear it,” Mr Brennan said.

“We understand that this work will cause some inconvenience, however, it is a vital upgrade to key infrastructure that needs to be carried out as a priority.”

Mr Brennan said motorists who used Koombana Drive regularly should start considering alternative routes early to avoid delays and congestion.

“We have a comprehensive plan in place that will give residents, businesses and visitors notice of the closure and advice on alternative routes,” Mr Brennan said.

“But we are sure local drivers will be able to formulate their own alternative travel plans that avoid Koombana Drive while also taking into consideration other motorists and the general public, especially in residential areas.”

Roadworks will include 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.

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

The scope of works will include a new marine wall and the existing boardwalk will be demolished to make way for a new land-based pedestrian path.

ENDS

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