

O'Herns Road Upgrades

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much will the works cost?

The \$81 million project includes \$55.2 million in State Government funding and \$25.8 million from the Federal Government.

What works are being undertaken?

The works include:

Stage 1

- Installing traffic lights at the intersection of O'Herns Road and High St.

Stage 2

- Construction of a full diamond interchange onto Hume Freeway from O'Herns Road
- Duplication of O'Herns Road between Hume Freeway and High Street

Why are the works being undertaken?

O'Herns Road is one of the few main arterial roads which connect the northern suburbs of Epping, Epping North and Wollert. Residents and Council have long been advocating for improvements to O'Herns Road to cater for increasing population in the Whittlesea area.

This project will deliver many benefits to the Whittlesea community, including:

- More drivers will be able to safely pass through the intersection during a green light, which will reduce queue lengths and ease congestion
- providing residents in Epping and Epping North easier access to the Hume Freeway
- relieving traffic pressure on Cooper Street, Miller Street and High Street
- providing easier access to key areas such as the Cooper Street Employment Area, Epping Activity Centre and the Melbourne Wholesale Market.
- improved response time for emergency services vehicles.

When will works begin?

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The construction contract to upgrade the O'Herns Road and High St intersection (Stage 1) will be awarded in late May - early June, with works to begin in June/July and be completed in late 2017.

The construction contract to widen O'Herns Road and build the new interchange (Stage 2) will be awarded in November 2017, with works beginning in early 2018.

When will works be completed?

Construction works on Stage 1 will be completed late this year. Construction works to widen O'Herns Road and build the new interchange (Stage 2) will be completed by late 2019. We are currently investigating ways to accelerate completion.

What will the environmental impacts be?

Some trees will be removed to accommodate the widened road. An arborist report is currently being finalised to determine the exact number, condition and value of these trees.

One of the ways the community can get involved in this project is by providing feedback on our landscaping plan which includes planting a number of trees. Following Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage investigations, some sites of significance may be impacted. Options to avoid impact of these sites will be explored during detailed design. If impacted, the sites will be salvaged.

Recent fauna surveys have found that the only species of a matter of national and environmental significance is the Golden Sun Moth. As a result the project is required to submit a referral to the Federal government in relation to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. The project will remove Golden Sun Moth habitat but this will be offset elsewhere.

What improved facilities will be available for pedestrians and cyclists?

On road cycling lanes will be provided on O'Herns Road and a shared user path will be constructed on the south side of O'Herns Road, providing a connection to the Galada Tamboore pathway.

What impact will the construction works have on other road projects in the region?

The works currently going on across Melbourne's north will ultimately create a safer, faster road network to accommodate the area's growing population.

We have considered the timeline and traffic impacts of other projects, including Yan Yean and Plenty Road, on the O'Herns Road upgrades and will work with the successful contractor to minimise any potential disruptions.