

CAUSEWAY PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST BRIDGES

Statement by Minister for Transport

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport) [1.16 pm]: On 1 March, the Premier and I marked a major milestone for the new Causeway pedestrian and cyclist bridges project. Together with the members for Perth and Victoria Park, and the federal member for Swan, we officially turned the first sod on the project at McCallum Park. It marked the start of construction of two iconic cable bridges that will link the Victoria Park foreshore at McCallum Park with Heirisson Island and Perth's CBD at Point Fraser. The Causeway is one of the busiest connections to central Perth and the current infrastructure is far too narrow to safely accommodate the demand from path users. The new bridges will be six metres wide, with dedicated pedestrian and cyclist lanes providing safer access for the more than 1 500 cyclists and 2 000 pedestrians who use the existing bridge path daily.

The design for these bridges is spectacular. They will not only provide better connectivity for people travelling into the CBD, but also become a major attraction and encourage more people to get out and visit Perth city. The design of the structural elements of the bridges takes into account the area's significant cultural history, with inspiration from the stories of Balbuk and Yagan—two key figures associated with Heirisson Island. As with Matagarup Bridge, feature lighting will also be installed on the bridges' pylons and cables and will be programmable for special events.

Also like Matagarup Bridge, these bridges are being built in Western Australia by Western Australians. Civmec, Seymour Whyte and WSP are delivering the design and construct alliance contract, with Civmec responsible for some of our iconic bridges, including Matagarup Bridge and the Kids' Bridge at Perth Children's Hospital. Around 700 direct and indirect jobs will be supported by this fantastic project. This federal and state government-funded project is a key part of the \$1.7 billion Perth City Deal initiative.

In addition to this project, we are investing record amounts in new riding and walking infrastructure over the next four years, supporting our community and the economy and creating more jobs. With site establishment recently completed, the next steps are for site ground improvement works to commence at McCallum Park, with the project expected to be completed at the end of 2024. I look forward to keeping the house posted on the progress of this significant project.