

We heard your feedback. Here's our plan.



The Water Corporation project team set up information booths in Busselton on 30 November and 1 December 2019 at Bunnings and the Foreshore Markets. We spoke with over 100 Busselton locals over the weekend and received some valuable feedback. Many people shared their eagerness to see improvements in flood protection for Busselton and told us stories of previous flood events.

People also shared with us their concerns about the project. Concerns included:

- Walking/Transport routes over and along the drain during construction
- Construction impacts like dust, noise and vibrations on nearby homes
- Environmental impacts
- Aesthetics of the drain when construction is complete
- Integrated management of drains and rivers

We worked through this feedback and have come up with the following plan.

Walking / Transport Routes

- When the upgrades are complete pedestrian access to the levee banks will still be possible. The banks will be 3-4 meters wide, making them safe for walking.
- For safety reasons, it is essential the levee banks closed during construction.
- Bridges
 - The bridge connecting Queen Elizabeth Ave to Moore St and Carter St will be replaced with a temporary bridge during construction.
 - We are investigating how to close the bridge connecting Glenmeer Ramble to College Ave for the shortest time possible, over the school holiday period.
- We will work closely with the City of Busselton on possible detours for the newly constructed shared path on College Ave, which will need to be closed in sections to allow construction equipment to access the drain.
- Design features to deter motorised vehicles using the drain area will be installed as part of the upgrade.

Construction impacts

- There will be dedicated plans for dust suppression and noise management during construction.
- Properties that may be affected by machinery vibrations will be surveyed before construction begins. Vibration monitoring will be in place so we can check the work is within a suitable range.
- There will be increased vehicle movements as machinery and materials are moved in and out of the drain. Traffic management plans will be in place to ensure this is done safely.



Environmental impacts

- We have reduced our clearing footprint from 4.62 ha to 1.76 ha through refining the design while focussing on minimising environmental impacts.
- A dedicated environmental management plan for **Western Ringtail Possums** will be prepared with expert advice. Infill planting, installation of nesting boxes and rope bridges will be installed to mitigate impacts.
- Genetic testing indicates the **Conospermum caeruleum** found locally is not a subspecies. However, we have commissioned the propagation of 300 of these plants for use in infill and revegetation works.
- Based on expert advice, **Carbunup King Spider Orchids** will be managed where they are and an exclusion zone will be installed. Professor Kingsley Dixon will be providing advice for the dedicated management plan for this species. Prof Dixon will be taking a custodial collection on behalf of the Corporation.
- A targeted management plan for **Carter's Freshwater Mussel** is being prepared. A plan to translocate the mussels within the construction area is also being drafted, using a risk-based approach to site selection. Appropriate licences and approval will be obtained from DBCA.

Appearance

- The current grassy drain will look quite different once upgraded. Construction will leave exposed earth as the grasses currently growing will be covered. We will utilise dust suppression during construction and we are currently working with specialists on a plan to revegetate for bank stabilisation.
- To make sure tree roots do not compromise the structure of the drain, we are selecting native shallow rooted plants and grasses which will spread across the ground and bend into the surrounding landscape.
- We are currently awaiting advice from regulators and will be able to provide details on how the upgraded drain will look in late March.

Integrated management of local waterways

- We have incorporated recommendations from Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) within our plans for this upgrade. These recommendations were made by DWER based on the *Revitalising Geographe Waterways Program* and flood modelling.