

Tonkin Highway extension (Gosnells to Mundijong). The Conservation Council of WA calculates that the Tonkin Highway extension will destroy 300 ha of remnant vegetation and impact on many wetlands and local brooks and streams. It is being built to facilitate urban sprawl and new industrial areas to the south. The picture on the right shows the limited and feeble attempts at erosion control next to the Southern River



Another picture of the haphazard erosion control. It is not working and the discolouration of the Southern River indicates wash from the roadworks is entering the river.

Associated with the construction of the Gosnells/Armadale section of the Tonkin Highway Wright Lake is being destroyed and reconstructed as a rowing waterway. The water level of the rowing course is to be artificially maintained by pumping saline underground water into it. Wright Lake was an important waterbird refuge. The picture below gives some indication of the scale of the work.



Another Tonkin Highway proposal is the Abernethy Road On-Ramp. Proposed by Main Roads WA and supported by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. It targets Conservation Category Wetlands, Bush Forever Site 386, a Threatened Ecological Community and Declared Rare Flora near the Perth Airport. The on-ramp proposal conflicts with the State's wetland protection policies. The area has been identified as a High Risk Acid Sulphate Soil area.

The EPA rejected the Main Roads on-ramp plan on environmental grounds. Main Roads, with the State Government's support, appealed the EPA decision.

There are a number of alternative on-ramp options that avoid the environmentally sensitive areas but Main Roads did not assess them. In the environmental review Main Roads presented three contrived options which ensured its preferred option received Government approval.

Part of the area under threat from Main Roads and the Planning Minister.

