

NEWS RELEASE

March 13, 2009

Progress on road safety improvements

Construction is set to start on a major improvement of the intersection of Coalfields Highway and Gastaldo Road, near Collie.

The work – which will take about eight weeks to complete – will include new turn off lanes into Gastaldo Road and street lighting.

Street lighting was as;sp turned on for the first time this week at the intersection of Australind Bypass and Raymond Road, north of Bunbury.

The projects are key planks in BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina's efforts to help improve safety on local roads.

Worsley has been working closely with Main Roads, local shires, WA Police and other major road users to implement the recommendations from a road safety study commissioned last year to coincide with the start to construction of the company's \$A2.5 billion expansion project.

The recommendations range from major to minor road infrastructure improvements, through to better signage and sight lines, dedicated car parking, education campaigns and a coordinated approach to managing traffic flow.

Worsley's General Manager Julius Matthys said road safety was important given the distances our employees, and other members of the public, had to travel on an increasingly busy road network.

He said lighting the busy intersections on Australind Bypass and Coalfields Highway would go a long way toward improving safety for all motorists.

Off site parking is another focus area for improvement. A dedicated public car park is to be built near the intersection of Australind Bypass and Raymond Road to discourage ad hoc parking.

Last month, another car park was opened in Picton, off South Western Highway. It replaced plans for a car park at the bottom of Coalfields Highway, near Roelands, which were hampered by land-use constraints and safety concerns.

Worsley, Griffin Coal, Premier Coal and Verve Energy have also agreed in principle to a joint heavy vehicle curfew on Coalfields Highway.

Worsley introduced its own curfew in September with the aim of keeping slow-moving heavy haulage vehicles off the highway during peak light vehicle travel times.

Feedback from police and road users is that the early morning and late afternoon voluntary curfew has been successful in reducing at-risk driving and improving general traffic flow.

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