



Additional documents

Finance, Policy, Operations and Legislation Committee

Wednesday, 9 September 2020, 6.00pm

13. Late Item

FPOL2009-12 INFORMATION REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2020

Environmental Assessment of Swan River Crossings Project

Responsible officer:	Acting Chief Executive Officer
Agenda attachments:	Nil
Additional information:	Nil

The Swan River Crossings project has been referred by the project proponent, Main Roads WA, to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1989. The EPA has provided a seven-day period within which it is inviting public comments on whether it should formally assess the proposal under the environmental assessment provisions of the above Act. The comment period closes on Thursday 10 September. Comments must be made via an online form, and submitters are invited to indicate what level of environmental assessment (if any) a proposal should be assessed at. The highest level of assessment is public environmental review (PER). For Council's information, the High Street upgrade project was assessed at the PER level in 2018/19.

City officers consider that due to the level of environmental significance of the Swan River Crossings project it is appropriate for the City of Fremantle to provide comment to the EPA, and due to the short timeframe available for comment officers have made a submission administratively. The submission has stated that assessment at public environmental review level would be appropriate, based on the potential impacts of the proposal upon the following environmental factors considered by the EPA (as identified in EPA Environmental Factor Guidelines):

- Social Surroundings factor – implications for places of significance for aboriginal heritage and culture, site of historical heritage (State Heritage Registered Old Traffic Bridge), and amenity – potential impacts of proposed new bridge(s) and associated approach road networks on visual amenity of nearby residents and users of public areas of river foreshore, and noise impacts from road vehicles on new road bridge in closer proximity to residential properties in Northbank and from trains on rail bridge (potential wheel squeal on curved rails).
- Air Quality factor – road vehicle exhaust particulates emissions in closer proximity to residential properties in Northbank.
- Inland waters factor – potential impacts on water quality and water dependent ecosystems from piling into the riverbed for new bridge construction causing possible disturbance of contaminants within the riverbed associated with historic marine and industrial activities in the area.
- Terrestrial Fauna factor – potential impacts on fauna (defined as including amphibians and fish) from degradation of habitat associated with water quality and foreshore habitat change (see above reference to disturbance of riverbed).

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

Council receive the information report and note the submission of comments by the City's administration to the Environmental Protection Authority requesting the assessment of the Swan River Crossings project at the level of public environmental review, as outlined in this report.