



Major Transport Infrastructure

Roads

The City's most recent Local Planning Strategy projects a growth in population to approximately 91,000 by 2051. Development is occurring at a rapid rate, with the City processing a record number of Development Applications in both the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 financial years. The Council has recently supported and is considering a number of Structure Plans in the wider Dunsborough area which, if approved by the State Government, will allow for further residential growth to occur and result in continued stress on an already compromised road system. To manage growth and to service future development, proper planning for the Vasse-Dunsborough link and the Busselton Bypass needs to start now.

The volume of tourists visiting the City of Busselton each year continues to place pressure on local roads and results in significant increases in road users, both during and outside traditional holiday periods. Tourism Western Australia's Margaret River Region Tourism Investment Profile projects 4.9 million visitors and 9.6 million visitor nights across the region by 2033 (up from 2.9 million visitors and 5.8 million visitor nights in 2024). The planned expansion of the Busselton Margaret River Airport will also bring greater passenger numbers into the area year on year, and this needs to be considered as roads are planned and upgraded.

The City has initiated discussions regarding both of these critical roads, including exploring project approaches and securing the necessary funding arrangements.

The City has been undertaking modelling to inform the development of a transport strategy which will guide investment into major road upgrades in key areas into the future.

Rail

The City is aware that the State and Federal Governments have jointly funded the development of an \$8mill strategic business case that will investigate options to provide faster passenger rail services from Perth to Bunbury. This work will identify existing constraints and determine future demand and operational requirements, and will include a planning and investment program that will identify potential projects, cost and staging options to help guide future investment decisions. This project will also consider population growth, travel patterns, private sector financing opportunities and access to jobs, services and affordable housing, and determine the economic, environmental and social costs and benefits of improved passenger rail services from Perth to Bunbury.

The City would lend its support to the concept of a fast passenger rail service as a key link for people to be able to access the South West. This will support a diversity of employment opportunities for local residents and access to metro-based services, thus enabling people to live affordably in regional areas with an improved quality of life.

To view the Council Plan 2024-2034 visit:
www.busselton.wa.gov.au/council-plan

