

Shire of Bruce Rock

NEWSLETTER

March 2021



Shire of
Bruce Rock
Where friends become family



Photo - Jarred Seng

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FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Darren Mollenoyux



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Council and staff have hit the ground running in 2021. We have had a busy start to the year with many new projects and governance changes to work on. Council held its first meeting of the year on the 18th February 2021 addressing various matters including the Bruce Rock Bowling Green, implementation of the new Code of Conduct for Elected Members, New Code of Conduct for employees, New CEO Standards in line with the changes to the Local Government Act, new Supermarket planning, purchase of a new truck, grant funded projects, drainage and roadworks.

In addition to local meetings and activities, the President, Deputy President and CEO have been representing the Shire at a regional level attending the WA Local Government Association Eastern Zone Meeting, Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Meeting and the CEACA Inc Meeting.

The Councillors and staff are looking forward to the exciting year ahead representing, and delivering for the community.

Projects, Projects, Projects

Council have been successful in several significant grants, and many of these projects will be undertaken in 2021. Unfortunately none of the stimulus funds from the Federal Government can be used for the construction of a new supermarket, however it does free up some Council funds that can then be committed to this project. Some of the projects that have been funded through either stimulus funding or grants we have obtained and will be completed or commenced in 2021 include the following:

New Memorial Park – As identified in our Main Street Revitalisation strategy, the War Memorial landscaping will be upgraded and the small individual memorials will be relocated into Sculpture Park to create a new Memorial Park and Reflection space.

Permanent Parklets – Following the successful trial of the temporary parklets, new permanent parklets will be constructed. These will be constructed where the temporary ones are currently located as part of the Main Street Revitalisation to create a central area / hub in the main street. Consideration may be given at a later date for further parklet/s in other areas of the main street, however parking priorities will need to be monitored and assessed.

Amphitheatre – Council successfully obtained grant funding to replace the grass tiers of the Amphitheatre with synthetic grass, significantly reducing water usage and maintenance costs. The ground level of the Amphitheatre will remain natural grass.

Bruce Rock Bowling Green – Following damage from a storm last year the Bowling Club was successful in an insurance claim, and therefore a new replacement synthetic bowling green will be installed in Bruce Rock later in the year.

Electronic Information Board – Funding has been obtained to replace the manual information board in Johnson Street (opposite the CRC) with a new electronic notice board. This will allow for instant updates and flexibility in working and information to be displayed.

Caravan Park – Upgrade works at the Bruce Rock Caravan Park, including new ablutions facility.

Cumminin Rock Picnic Area – Grant funding has been obtained to create a car parking area, walk trail to the rock and picnic area near the base. This will increase accessibility and attract tourists to stay longer and enjoy our natural attractions.

Railway Dam – Funding received will enable an upgrade to the catchment area to improve water capturing and increase dam levels during rain fall events.

Recreation Centre Drainage – The drainage near the entry and around the BBQ area will be upgraded and improved landscaping. In addition works will be undertaken to improve the BBQ area.



Shackleton Shows True Community Spirit

Council visited the Shackleton Bowling Club in February 2021 to tour the new bowling green upgrade project. The Shackleton Bowling Club, District Club and wider community have shown what volunteers can do to bring the project to fruition. Not only have they fundraised to install a new synthetic bowling green, they have committed many hours of labour and materials to complete the project with new fencing, shelters and surrounds. Council was very impressed with the final outcomes and it is a true credit to the Shackleton Bowling Club who have persisted for several years to have a facility that the bowling club and community can be proud of.



Shackleton Bowling Club



CEACA Units

CEACA Independent Living Units

As a member of CEACA Inc, the Shire of Bruce Rock is pleased with the recognition of the group as the winner of the Innovations for Supply Award at the recent Shelter WA Housing Awards. The award recognises and celebrates outstanding contributions from organisation in relation to social and affordable housing across Western Australia. Council was delighted to be advised by the CEACA Inc Executive Officer that all 8 of the CEACA Independent Living Units are now occupied. It is great to see them now fully occupied and we still encourage eligible residents to place their name on the waiting list as either wanting to move in or to be notified should a vacancy occur. For further information on the CEACA Units please contact Jo Trachy mobile: 0414 136 687 or email info@ceaca.org.au.

Main Street Revitalisation

At the Community Sundowner on Friday 12th February, Shire President Stephen Strange presented an update on Council's Main Street Revitalisation Strategy. A concept plan and update to the Main Street Revitalisation Key Outcomes is included on following pages. Council welcomes feedback on their Main Street Revitalisation, which can be made by emailing cdo@brucerock.wa.gov.au, ringing the Shire Office on 9061 1377 or making contact with a Councillor.

Main Street Revitalisation Strategy

Key Outcomes Update



STRATEGY ONE

JOHNSON ST & DUNSTALL ST INTERSECTION

Council have been liaising with Main Roads WA to redesign the intersection to improve traffic flow and safety, traffic movement and access to the fuel facility. This is an ongoing process that requires significant planning approval and funding and is expected to be one of the final completed elements of the Main Street Revitalisation.



STRATEGY TWO

RAILWAY LINE AND RESERVE PROJECT

Development of walking trails and incorporating a new natural spaces, activities centred around a theme within the reserve space and along the railway line, from north to south. Paths will also link both sides of town crossing the railway reserve. This strategy will be addressed in further stages of the Main Street Revitalisation.



STRATEGY THREE

PLAYGROUNDS

As per the concept plans, an Activity Centre will be established near the Amphitheatre which will include an adventure playground, pump track, soft fall, and tourist information. Public consultation will be undertaken to ascertain what sorts of play equipment would best suit our community.



STRATEGY FOUR

PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION TO LOCAL CENTRE

As per the concept plan, 'Pinch Points' will be created to bring both sides of Johnson Street closer together without narrowing the size of the actual traffic lanes. A street mural will be painted at the southern end of the business precinct to continue the story telling of the street, and to create a point of difference to encourage tourists to stop in Bruce Rock.



STRATEGY FIVE

AMPHITHEATRE & GARDEN CENTRE

Funding has been obtained through the Federal Drought Communities Programme to commence these works. Consultation with the Bruce Rock Veterans Group was undertaken to develop the existing Sculpture Park into a Memorial Park which will feature the existing memorials, additional artwork, and interpretative signage as well as landscaping. The Amphitheatre will be opened to Johnson Street, and relandscaped with synthetic lawn. An activation plan will be created in consultation with community groups to encourage greater use of the Amphitheatre.



STRATEGY SIX

MACHINERY MUSEUM

Redesign and expand the Machinery Museum layout and surrounds to improve access, and visual enhancement to showcase the historical items, whilst creating interest and engagement. This strategy will be addressed in further stages of the Main Street Revitalisation.



STRATEGY SEVEN

MAIN STREET FACADES AND AMENITIES

Council continues to encourage businesses to maintain and improve their facades and showcasing their heritage design through applying to the Local Business Townscape Grant Program.



STRATEGY EIGHT

CULTURAL CENTRE & SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Council continues to work with the Wheatbelt Sports Hall of Fame committee to see this project come to fruition. Council is undertaking grant applications to create a Cultural Centre that will incorporate this project, other exhibition space, visitor servicing, youth services and other elements.



STRATEGY NINE

SWAN STREET & JOHNSON STREET

Innovative way signage to encourage visitors to stop on Johnson St, before they turn right to go to Narembeen. Including Noonajin and Johnson St intersection in way signage and storytelling. This strategy will be addressed in further stages of the Main Street Revitalisation.



STRATEGY TEN

MOSAICS

Mosaics to be linked to the "Story Street" project and local family profiles. Signage to detail how the project came about and lighting and landscaping behind to enhance and connect them to the other spaces. This strategy will be addressed in further stages of the Main Street Revitalisation.



STRATEGY ELEVEN

SIGNAGE

Council has secured funding for an electronic notice board through the Federal Local Roads Community Infrastructure Program. This will allow for greater flexibility in messages available on the board, which could include upcoming events, public notices, promoting local businesses and initiatives. The electronic notice board will also enable Council to issue emergency public notices and messages more effectively.



STRATEGY TWELVE

MAIN STREET PUBLIC ART & STORYLINES

Swan St, Dunstall St and Johnson St to become a "Story Street" which focuses on Bruce Rock families and local identities, historical and current (reflecting the Shire of Bruce Rock's theme "Where Friends Become Family"). This strategy will be addressed in further stages of the Main Street Revitalisation.



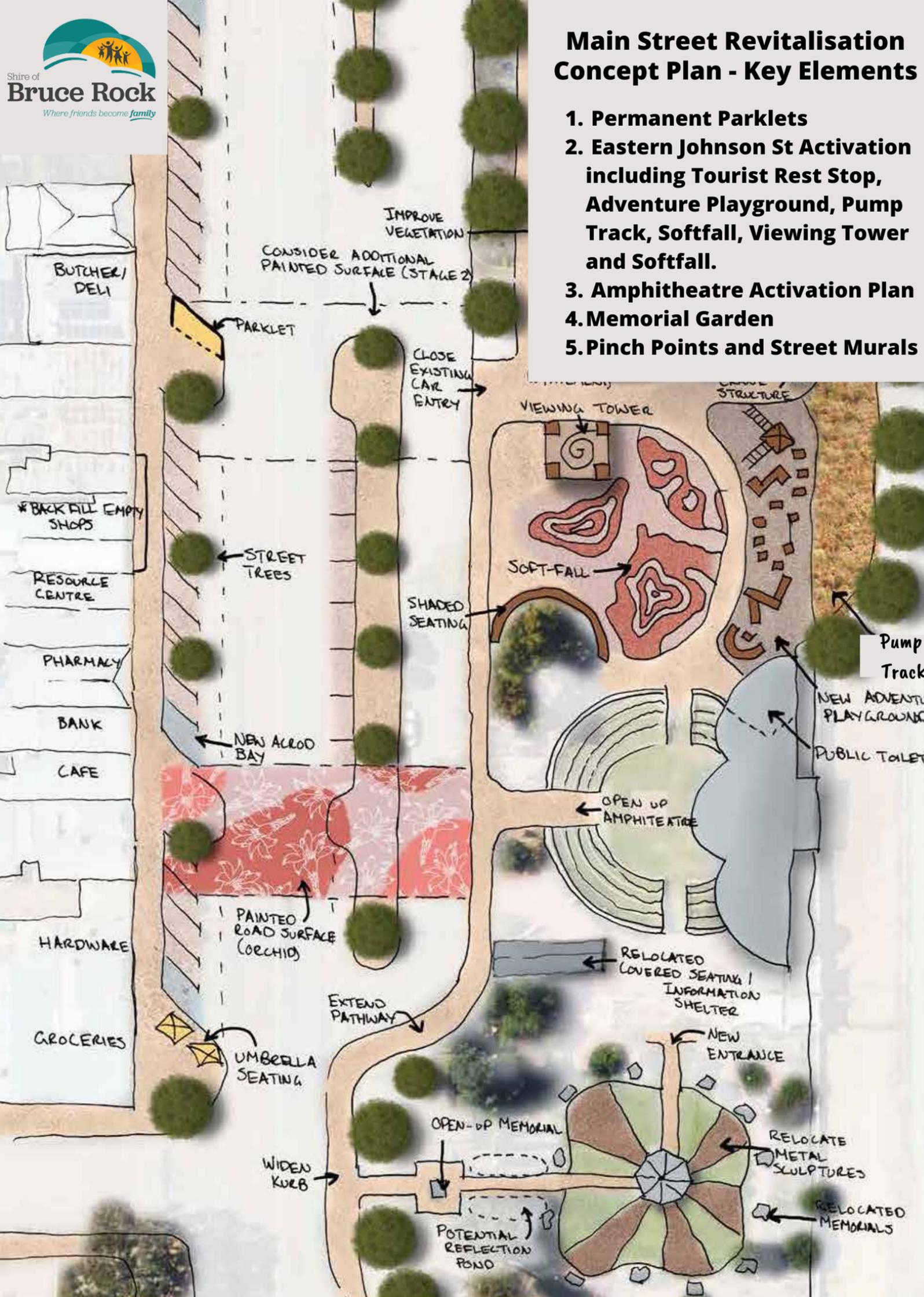
STRATEGY THIRTEEN

ENHANCEMENT OF WAR MEMORIALS

This strategy has now merged with Strategy Five - Amphitheatre and Garden, which will see the Sculpture Garden converted into a Memorial Garden and enhancement of the main War Memorial.

Main Street Revitalisation Concept Plan - Key Elements

1. Permanent Parklets
2. Eastern Johnson St Activation including Tourist Rest Stop, Adventure Playground, Pump Track, Softfall, Viewing Tower and Softfall.
3. Amphitheatre Activation Plan
4. Memorial Garden
5. Pinch Points and Street Murals



Pump
 Track
 NEW ADVENTURE
 PLAYGROUND
 PUBLIC TOILET

Community Update

Caris Negri

Fitness Grants

The Shire of Bruce Rock have partnered with MVB Fitness & PT to deliver free fitness programs thanks to a grant from the Department of Communities. Members of the Bruce Rock community are welcome to join at any session, you don't need to sign up for the entire program. Aqua Aerobics is at the pool every Tuesday & Friday from 11.30am – 12pm. A free healthy snack will follow the session on Friday. A Senior Fitness class will start up again after Easter. Keep an eye out on the Rock Review, Shire Facebook page and MVB Fitness & PT for times of the classes. For further information contact Malene Vad Brownley on 0427 888 313 or the Shire Office on 9061 1377

Community Grant Program

The Shire of Bruce Rock Community Grant is once again open for applications. Not For Profit groups based in the Shire of Bruce Rock are eligible to apply, and the grant can be for \$1000 or less with the applicant not required to match funds or up to \$5000 where the applicant must provide at least half of the total project cost. Applications close 5pm 5th April 2021. For more information, or to receive an application package please contact Community Development Officer, Caris Negri on 9061 1377 or cdo@brucerock.wa.gov.au

Shackleton Bowling Green

The grass green at Shackleton Bowling Club has been replaced with a new seven rink synthetic green. The Shackleton Bowling Club was a recipient of the Shire of Bruce Rock Sporting Facilities Grant, which funded one third of the project. The remaining two thirds was funded by the Shackleton Bowling Club, whose members must be commended on their fundraising efforts, commitment to the project and in-kind donations. Project like these require great dedication, and the Shackleton Bowling Club have been working towards the new green for many years. The new green ensures the continuity of the Shackleton Bowling Club, which is the only sport still offered in the Shackleton townsite, and by association ensures the continued viability of the Shackleton & Districts Club.



The new bowling green!

Volunteer Awards

On the 12th of March, Council held their annual Community Sundowner which this year also featured the presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Awards. Shire President Stephen Strange presented the Shire's strategic vision for the coming years, and highlighted several upcoming future projects.

2020 was a challenging year for everyone, and our volunteers worked as tirelessly as ever to contribute to our community. It was fantastic to see so many community members come together to celebrate and recognise our volunteers.

The nominees for the Volunteer of the Year Awards were:

Community Group Volunteer of the Year

Cultivators Committee Inc – for the running of the Ladies Lunch and Lad's Luncheon, which provide a sense of community and mental health awareness

Adult Volunteer of the Year

Adrianna Foss – for her dedication to the Bruce Rock Amateur Swim Club

Merredith McKenzie-Thornton – for her service with St Johns Bruce Rock Sub Centre, and service on the Bruce Rock CRC Committee and Bruce Rock District Club Committee

Mike Darby – for his service as Treasurer on the Bruce Rock District Club Committee, and running the Club Kitchen on a volunteer basis for 5 months

Perry Hodgkiss – for his leadership, dedication and service to the Bruce Rock Volunteer Fire & Emergency Service

The winners were:

Community Group Volunteer of the Year

Bruce Rock Mens Shed – For creating a welcoming community hub for men to come together and share a common interest as well as providing well-being and mental health support for one another. For their continuous support of the community through small projects, and their efforts delivering groceries and support to the aged community during the COVID19 pandemic.

Adult Volunteer of the Year

Cec Aurisch – For her years of unwavering support to residents, patients and staff at the Bruce Rock Hospital. Before COVID, Cec was a regular meals on wheels deliverer, and could be called upon by the hospital at any time to help out with transport or small tasks for residents. Cec is a regular visitor to Acacia House for residents who don't have close-by families, and hosts a regular Friday sing-along in Acacia. Cec recently sourced and delivered a piano so the residents could have access to music at all times. Cec also supports community members outside of the hospital community who have limited support by regularly checking in, taking them out for coffee, helping with shopping and appointments.



Cec Aurisch



Bruce Rock Men's Shed

ROADS UPDATE

David Holland



Gravel Sheeting

Gravel Sheeting is underway on Old Beverley Road and Carger Road and will soon commence on Kwolyin South and Cook Road. Please drive carefully and to the road conditions, and obey all signage

Please remember that if members of the public see areas of gravel or sealed roads that need attention, or extra tree pruning while the crew are in the area, please give the office a call on 9061 1377. By working together we can continue to keep our roads safe for all.

Bridge Works

Bridge works have commenced on the Naremben Boundary Road and Babakin East Road bridge, to be completed over the Easter break. The works crew will then proceed to commence works on the Bruce Rock South Road bridges.

Main Roads Update

Main Roads have started roadworks on the Bruce Rock - Merredin Road. The works are starting near McGellin Road, heading towards Merredin. A lead vehicle will escort traffic through the roadworks. These works are estimated to take 3 months.

If you have any questions or require further information, contact Main Roads on 138 138.