



INFORMATION SHEET – URBAN AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway – Ettamogah to Murray River
September 2005

The Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway will link the Hume Freeway at Wodonga with the present Hume Highway at Ettamogah, north of Albury. Major construction commenced in June 2005 with the freeway scheduled to open to traffic in mid 2007.

Abigroup has been contracted to design and construct the freeway. The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is managing the project in NSW. This section is fully funded by the Australian Government.

What was the approach to urban and landscape design?

The approach to urban and landscape design development generally reflects the plans in the Urban & Landscape Design Concept Report (Conybeare Morrison & Partners, 2000) and discussions with AlburyCity, and the availability of additional survey information.

These discussions led to the development of practical, attractive design outcomes for:

- East and South Albury parks.
- Dean Street pedestrian bridge and plaza.
- Specific plant species in the town centre zone.
- Noise reduction measures.

Will the landscape relate to existing surrounds?

The range of landscape treatments reflects the diverse local conditions. There are four strong visual character zones.

I Ettamogah to Thurgoona Drive

In this northernmost section of the corridor, a semi rural/open pasture dominates the landscape. Grazing activities on generally cleared areas are mixed with remnant and regenerated stands of mixed box woodland scattered in the gently rolling edges of the Murray River floodplain. Views across the floodplain are significant with locations such as Corrys Hill providing vantage points.

2 Thurgoona Drive to Borella Road

The landscape changes from fringe rural to semi-industrial to town centre between Thurgoona Drive and Borella Road. The setting has mixed uses – light industrial, recreational, residential and institutional in a flat approach to the town centre. Vegetation is scattered and inconsistent. Residential landscape plantings dominate and deciduous street trees become more visible.

3 Borella Road to Bridge Street

The built form of the Albury City dominates this zone. The town street grid is fully evident and views to prominent features are prevalent. The rail yard, train station and associated structures are the major features in this area.

4 Bridge Street to Murray River

The project corridor opens onto the Murray River floodplain at Bridge Street with open views across the river and into Wodonga. The landform is low and flat, with the existing railway forming a separation between South Albury and East Albury. There is minimal natural vegetation with few river red gums remaining. Deciduous street tree planting is the primary vegetation type.

What will happen in ecologically sensitive areas?

The landscape design is based on the principles of ecologically sustainable development. There are specific strategies for revegetation and retention of existing vegetation where necessary.

The landscape will enhance the character of ecologically sensitive areas, partially screening bridge / culvert structures, establishing fauna corridor habitat through riparian areas and stabilise earth embankments.

Drainage lines and stormwater detention basins will be stabilised with a permanent cover of grasses. Stormwater runoff from the freeway will be collected in these basins. Plants known to withstand severe drought conditions as well as occasional flooding will be used in these areas.

How have plants been selected?

The objective is to drought proof the landscape by choosing low water usage species, and species that will regenerate after prolonged dry periods.

The plant mixes have been based on existing vegetation with areas designed to complement the surrounding landscape.

The preferred use of locally suited species with low water and maintenance demands will ensure that long term landscape management is both cost effective and visually attractive.

What about the bridges and fittings?

Road bridges

The project includes eight bridges, three twin bridges, one rail bridge and three pedestrian bridges.

Each overpass structure has a role in highlighting the various gateways into Albury, with an approach to design including:

- Simple tapered wall type piers.
- Outer faces of bridge deck parapets are smooth single planes slanted outward to the bottom.
- A two rail and post system of traffic barriers mounted on the concrete parapet, which integrate with the safety barriers in both form and function.

Pedestrian bridges

Pedestrian and cyclist bridges have been located at Amatex, Kenilworth and Dean Streets.

Landing and ramp systems for each structure have been designed to allow access to the bridge for all users.

The distinctive Dean Street cable bridge will provide an important visual marker for Albury and the project. It relates visually to the vertical form of the tower on Monument Hill at the other end of the Dean Street.

Lighting

The lighting for the project will complement the design and highlight interesting elements of the bridging structures. Lights will be public space oriented, unobtrusive, robust, functional and easy to maintain.

Park furniture

East and South Albury Park areas will have shelters to provide shade at key locations.

Bicycle racks, drinking fountains and picnic tables will be located within the park areas.

Signage

All signage will be to RTA standards and designs. The number of signs will be kept to a minimum and placed to avoid intrusion into scenic views.

Vehicular safety barriers

A combination of wire rope and standard guardrail barriers will be used. The posts in the wire rope will be dark green to reduce visual impact on the roadway and users.

How has the community been involved?

Prior to award of the contract, the RTA consulted with AlburyCity to ensure the urban and landscape design was compatible with Council's strategic plans.

In accordance with the Conditions of Approval, the urban and landscape design has been prepared in consultation with the project Community Liaison Group (CLG), AlburyCity and local landowners/residents.

A community information day on 02 April 2005 to display the current urban and landscape design and receive feedback. An estimated 1100 people attended the information day.

Where can I get more information?

For more information on the project:

Phone toll free 1800 674 934

Email albury@abigroup.com.au

Log on to www.rta.nsw.gov.au/albury or

www.auslink.gov.au/projects/natnet/NSW/cnnh066.aspx

Visit the community display centre on Dallinger

Road, Monday to Friday from 9am - 5pm (excluding public holidays).



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