

*We're working for
Western Australia.*



Aboriginal Journey Ways

WALGA Webinar – 28 May 2020

Operations and Customers

Infrastructure

- 18,572 kms (95% sealed)
- \$48 billion replacement value
- 1,218 structures on state roads
- 1 road tunnel
- 1,023 traffic signals
- 400 CCTV
- 243 km shared paths
- 1,327 rail crossings

Services

- 313 contracts valued at \$6.1b
- \$2.1 billion in payments pa
- 5,400 suppliers
- 16,950 invoices processed
- 41,100 Credit Card transactions
- 18 million emails (35% spam)
- 1.3 million TRIM records
- 29,670 heavy vehicle permits

Customers

- 1.8 million drivers
- 5.5 million reached on Facebook
- 8,590 tweets, 80,200 followers
- 8,850 LinkedIn followers
- 92,000 calls, 54 000 emails
- 5.6 million web visits
- 850,000 travel map visits
- 420,000 emails from CONNECT

Aboriginal engagement and participation

- Aboriginal Employment Initiatives Taskforce
- Strategic Business Case
- Governance framework
 - Aboriginal Advisory Group
 - Aboriginal Management Committee
 - Working Groups
- Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Policy
- Raising awareness and educating staff
- Stretch RAP



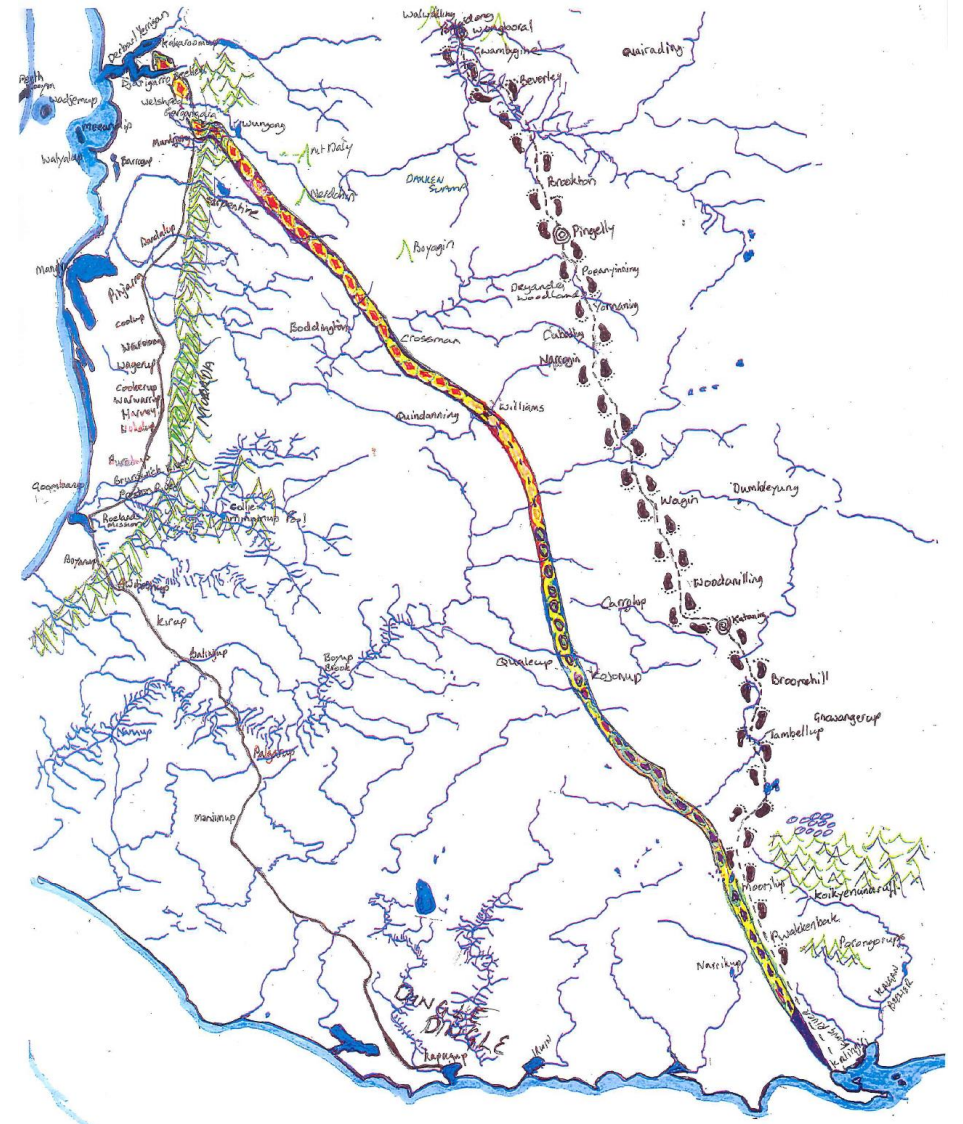
Project overview

- Collaborative initiative between Main Roads and Kurongkurl Katitjin
- Aboriginal journey ways aligned to Main Roads road network
- Capture and share the journey ways stories



Project methodology

- Koodjal junning = look both ways
- Extensive engagement with Custodial Elders and other key stakeholders
- Respectful process



Project outcomes

- Five reports produced:
 - Nyoongar Bidi
 - The Inland Routes
 - Long Way Long Time
 - The Desert Routes
 - The Kimberley Routes
- Significance of country and journey



The Western Australian Aboriginal Journey Ways Project

A collaboration between
Kurongkurl Katitjin, Edith Cowan University and Main Roads WA

Phase 1, 2016

Nyoongar Bidi

(Nyoongar Journey Ways)

Researchers
Dr Francesca Robertson
Dr Noel Nannup
Alison Nannup

Sharing stories

- Honour Aboriginal culture and heritage
- Demonstrate the significance of country and journey to Aboriginal people
- Share journey ways stories



Aboriginal Message Stick

How we plan to share stories

- Summarise stories for a wide audience
- Develop an interactive map identifying places of significance
- Create a dedicated webpage to share the stories and maps
- Make the information available for visitor and tourist centres



Web Based Concept

Crossman

Wiilman Country

The small pools of fresh water adjacent to the highway were used by Nyoongar people as water sources when walking north or south along the route.

The granite ridge pointing towards Narrogin just north of Crossman is the home of the Fire Waarkarl. The Fire Warkarl is a totem and part of a songline. It stays home until the summer time and waits for a fire to start, then it takes off, raging in the fire front.

Noel Nannap, Elder

Waarkarl Woonya Bidi (Albany Highway)

Road that honours the Rainbow Serpent

Route: Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) to Kalgan Beelir (Kalgan River)

Kilometres: 397

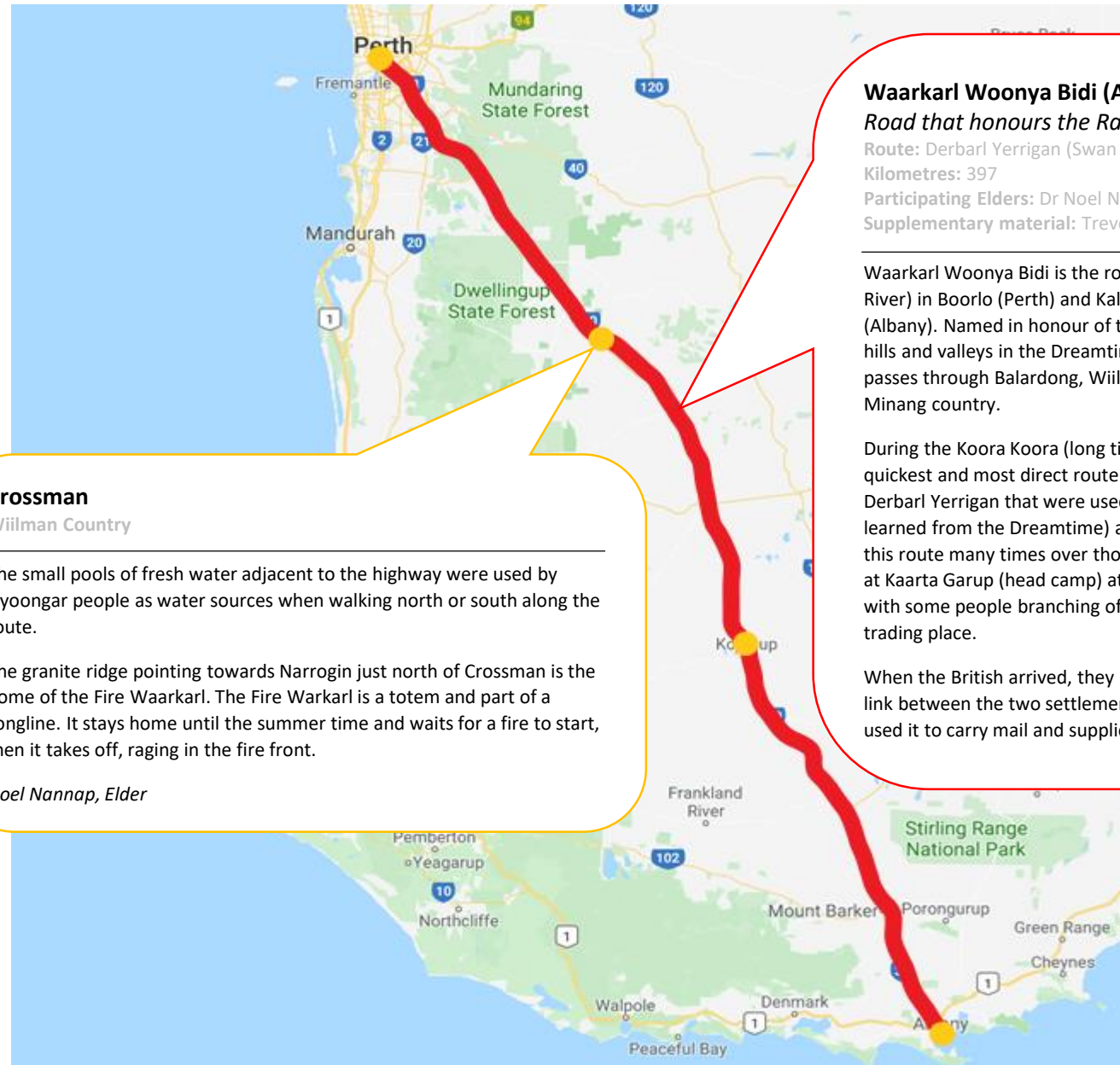
Participating Elders: Dr Noel Nannup, Jack Cox, Carol Pettersen

Supplementary material: Trevor Walley, Vern Gilies

Waarkarl Woonya Bidi is the route between Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) in Boorlo (Perth) and Kalgan Beelir (Kalgan River) in Kalingiri (Albany). Named in honour of the Waarkarl (who created the rivers, hills and valleys in the Dreamtime), it begins in Whadjuk country, passes through Balardong, Wiilman and Kaneag country and ends in Minang country.

During the Koora Koora (long time ago), Waarkarl Woonya Bidi was the quickest and most direct route from Kalingiri to the many sites along to Derbarl Yerrigan that were used to conduct lore (customs and stories learned from the Dreamtime) and ceremony. Nyoongar people walked this route many times over thousands of years to attend lore meetings at Kaarta Garup (head camp) at what is now Mount Eliza in Kings Park with some people branching off to Mandjar (Mandurah), a popular trading place.

When the British arrived, they used the same track to create a direct link between the two settlements at Boorlo and Kalingiri and initially used it to carry mail and supplies to settlers living along the route.



Gnarla Boodja Mili Mili (Our Country on Paper)

Gnarla Boodja Mili Mili (Our Country on paper)

- Online interactive map
- Living document
- Can be updated over time
- Compiled by the Dept Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries



Looking ahead

- Record Elders telling their stories
- Develop and install signage across the road network that identifies significant places
- Investigate communication tools such as self-guide apps



Feedback from AAG

- Generally supportive of our approach
- Permissions from Elders
- Protecting sacred sites
- Signage considerations
- Produce full concept of Waarkarl Woonya Bidi





Questions & feedback