

XX September 2025

Main Roads WA
PO Box 6202
East Perth WA 6892

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Condition of Great Eastern Highway – Northam to Merredin

Council wishes to formally express its serious concerns regarding the current condition of the Great Eastern Highway between Northam and Merredin. This section of the highway serves as a vital transport corridor for the Wheatbelt region, linking regional communities with the Perth metropolitan area. It also functions as the primary freight route for agricultural commodities, mining outputs, and general goods, and is therefore critical to the economic and logistical connectivity of the region.

At present, the highway is in a poor and deteriorating state. Council has received numerous complaints from road users and observed firsthand the following issues:

- Extensive potholes and road surface failures, creating unsafe driving conditions.
- A consistently rough surface which increases vehicle wear and contributes to driver fatigue.
- Insufficient overtaking opportunities, causing frustration and dangerous driver behaviour on a road heavily utilised by heavy vehicles.

With freight volumes continuing to grow and the upcoming harvest season expected to place additional pressure on this section of the highway, Council is increasingly concerned about the associated risks to both road safety and transport efficiency.

Accordingly, Council respectfully requests urgent advice from Main Roads WA (MRWA) on the following:

1. What measures are currently being taken to address the deteriorating condition of the highway, including short-term maintenance works to repair potholes and failed sections.
2. What longer-term plans are in place to ensure the Great Eastern Highway meets the needs of our region, particularly regarding pavement renewal, safety improvements, and provision of additional overtaking lanes.
3. How MRWA intends to prioritise works on this corridor given its importance to the Wheatbelt economy and the State's freight network.

Council strongly urges Main Roads WA to prioritise this matter to ensure that the Great Eastern Highway continues to function as a safe, reliable, and efficient transport route for all road users.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 9041 1611 or via email scem@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Yours Sincerely,

Codi Brindley-Mullen
Acting Chief Executive Officer

