

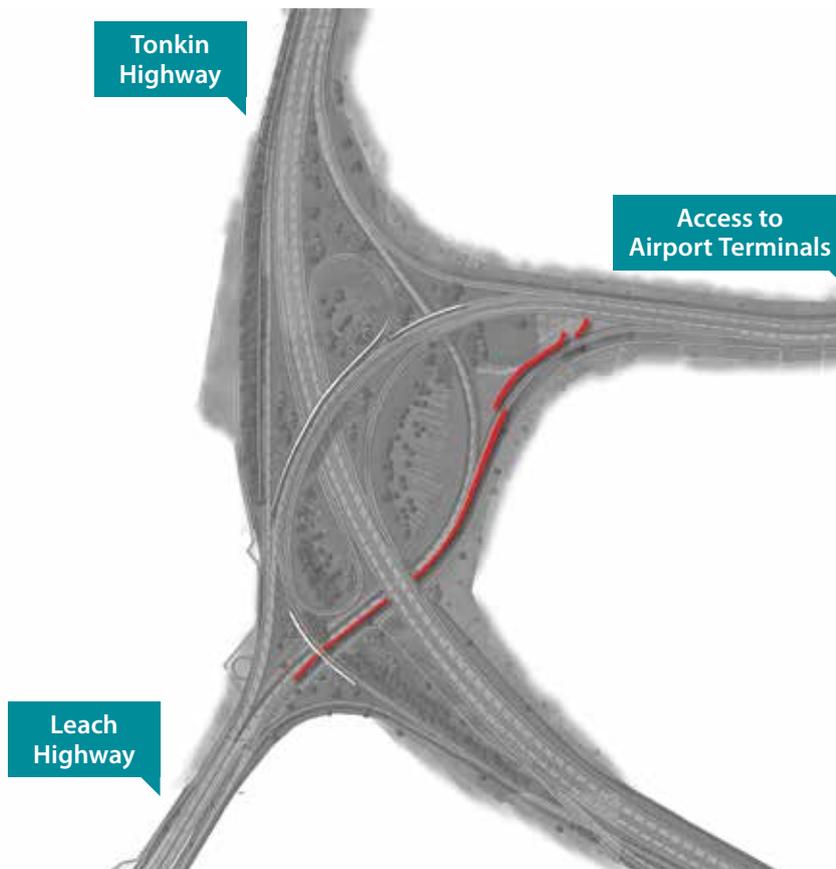
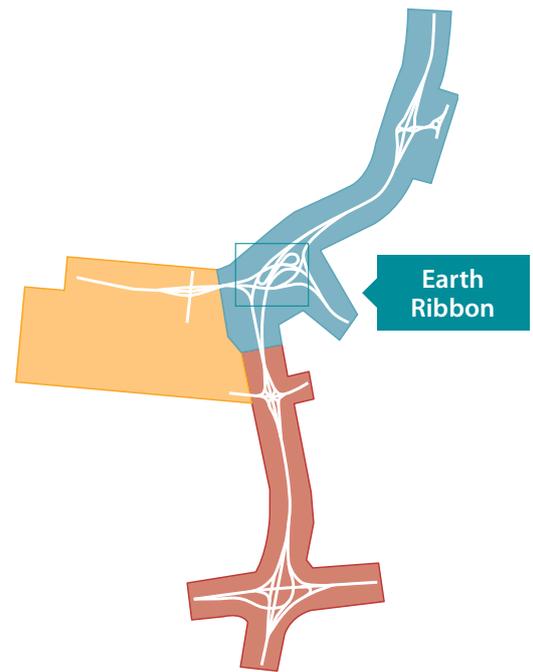
## Earth Ribbon

### OVERVIEW

The Gateway WA Perth Airport and Freight Access Project is WA's largest ever road project, designed to improve the safety and efficiency of one of the state's most important transport hubs.

The iconic nature of the Gateway WA project demands a visionary approach in order to create a lasting impression for road users, residents and visitors to Western Australia. Using innovative urban design and public art, Gateway WA has commissioned a number of projects within its scope to realise its vision.

There are a number of public art pieces of varying themes that have been commissioned for installation across the project.



Earth Ribbon location in the Grand Gateway highlighted in red

### DESCRIPTION

Earth Ribbon is a layered, double-faced wall that curves around the Grand Gateway at the ground level of the Tonkin Highway / Leach Highway interchange. The wall is made from Corten steel and separates the road from the Principal Shared Path, acting as a cladding on bridge abutments and also on several retaining walls.

The deep red colour of the steel and the stratified design represent the topography and geology of the ancient land of Western Australia and is a counterpoint to another art piece, Sky Ribbon, in the Grand Gateway.



Earth Ribbon installed at the Grand Gateway



Earth Ribbon panels

## ARTIST

With the base design in place, the Meeyakba Shane Pickett Estate and Jonathan Jones, a Sydney-based Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi artist, were commissioned to celebrate the painting practice of the late Meeyakba Shane Pickett (1957–2010).

Jonathan Jones developed the artwork in dialogue with Shane's family, including his wife, Violet, children, Roger and Trevor, and his father, Fred Pickett, along with the Estate's representative gallery, Mossenson Galleries.

## INSPIRATION

*"I am privileged to have been taught the traditions and cultural values of my father's Jdwat people and my mother's Balladong people. These include hunting skills, reading of weather patterns and signs that teach me to respect the seasons and understand their movements, changes and moods. I have learnt to read the songlines that journey through all living things across the entire landscape. I have sat down and watched the dusk infusion (the changing of day into night) and seen the colours of the sky and shadows move or merge into dreams of soft calming rhythms. I will always respect my cultural values, for the dreams do flow strongly through the views of my life".*

– Meeyakba Shane Pickett

Respected as one of the most important and influential Nyoongar artists of his generation, Pickett was born in 1957 in the wheat-belt town of Quairading in his mother's Balladong Country in south-west Western Australia.

Balancing innovation with tradition, modernity with ancient spirituality, his paintings are infused with the steadfastness of Nyoongar culture. Pickett's unique painting style speaks directly to Nyoongar country and its people with highly saturated colours and textures.

Pickett's status as a key local Nyoongar artist, along with his knowledge and sensitivity of country as expressed in his paintings, was integral to the creation of the artwork. Through his practice, Pickett fought to maintain Nyoongar identity and territories within the contested history and space of Perth. As such, his work operates appropriately as an introduction to the city.

With its layered construction, the artwork speaks to the region's layered history and guides people through Nyoongar country. The artwork is a celebration of Pickett's work, reinforcing the enduring strength of Nyoongar country and its beauty.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to know more about the key features of the project please visit the Gateway WA website at [www.gatewaywa.com.au](http://www.gatewaywa.com.au)

## CONTACT US

If you have a question about the project you are welcome to contact the Gateway WA team on:  
Project Information Line: **1800 420 421** or  
email: [admin@gatewaywa.com.au](mailto:admin@gatewaywa.com.au)