

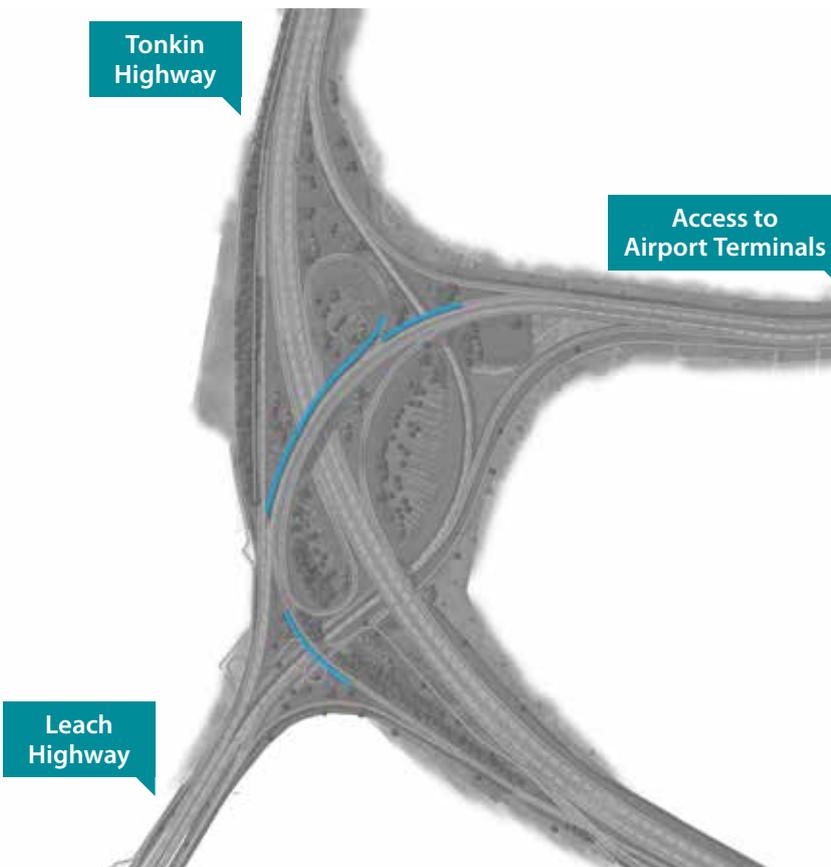
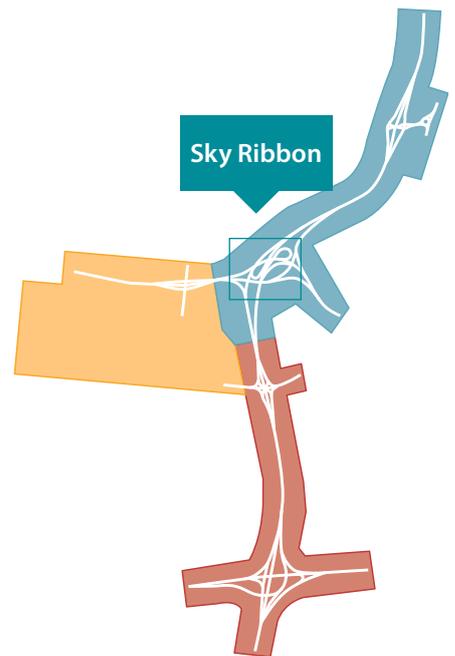
Sky Ribbon

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.



Sky Ribbon location in the Grand Gateway highlighted in blue

DESCRIPTION

Sky Ribbon is a dramatic, elevated urban design structure of more than 220 panels that connect three bridge structures of the Tonkin Highway / Leach Highway interchange. The panels are made out of aluminium and line the access to and from Perth Airport.

Although they may look deceptively simple, the manufacture of the shield sculptures was a technical challenge. Each shield is engraved to a 1mm depth with a reflected textured pattern on both sides. Other sections are cut through with hexagonal shapes, with no two shapes the same. Sky Ribbon forms an integral part of the Grand Gateway.



Sky Ribbon

Sky Ribbon represents the contemporary age and future of the state. It is designed as a counterpoint to another art piece in the Grand Gateway, Earth Ribbon, which represents the ancient history and culture of the state.

ARTIST

Artist Rick Vermey designed a striking, fluid graphic that has been laser cut and etched into the panels. To do this, he had to work in close collaboration with the Gateway WA design and structural engineering teams. The structural intricacy of the project compelled Rick to learn new and complex programs in order to master the geometry of the design.

INSPIRATION

Given the proximity of Sky Ribbon to Perth Airport, Rick's initial approach was to develop a design in response to themes of flight, lightness, flow and a sense of movement. He looked at the shapes, rhythms and patterns of nature for inspiration, such as the shapes and structures of cells, the building blocks of life.

It was apparent to Rick early in the design process that an abstract patterned design was best suited to the experience of travelling under or alongside Sky Ribbon, rather than something more pictorial or narrative.

Sky Ribbon is designed as an experience where variable moments of changing atmosphere, light and shadow are reflected along the road journey.

From the initial concept to the final manufacture, the artwork became more responsive to the technical fabrication requirements of the shields, and Rick became more engaged with production, quality control and lighting.

Meeting the team that made the panels provided Rick with crucial insight into their production methods, which allowed him to respond creatively to shifting engineering solutions.

The design process of Sky Ribbon has been collaborative and responsive from the initial urban design concept to the production.



Sky Ribbon panel with lighting

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

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