



Route planning – placard loads of dangerous goods and the Northbridge Tunnel

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND I AM ABOUT TO DRIVE THROUGH THE TUNNEL?

If you find yourself heading towards the tunnel by accidentally taking the wrong exit, **do not** continue to drive through the tunnel.



Stop your vehicle before
the tunnel



Pull over to a safe
position on the side of
the road



Call the Road Network
Operations Centre on
138 111 and await
further instructions



Do not reverse back on
to the freeway



USEFUL RESOURCES

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety,
www.dmirs.wa.gov.au
*Dangerous Goods Safety Guidance Note – Route
restrictions for the transport of explosives*

Main Roads, www.mainroads.wa.gov.au

National Transport Commission, www.ntc.gov.au
Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG Code)

This publication is available on request in other formats
for people with special needs.

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For publication orders

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Email: SafetyComms@dmirs.wa.gov.au

www.dmirs.wa.gov.au





DID YOU KNOW?

If a vehicle has dangerous goods placards on it, such as emergency information panels (EIPs) or diamonds, it cannot pass through the Northbridge Tunnel.

WHY ARE PLACARDED VEHICLES NOT ALLOWED IN THE NORTHBRIDGE TUNNEL?

The Northbridge Tunnel, also known as the Graham Farmer Freeway Tunnel, is the only location in Western Australia where placarded vehicles are not allowed. Under the Dangerous Goods Safety (Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007 (the Regulations), drivers of placarded vehicles entering the tunnel will incur

penalties. This ensures that there is **minimal risk** to other people travelling in the tunnel.

Tunnels are enclosed spaces and are often very busy, especially during peak periods, with limited exits and access points. This makes it very difficult for people to escape or receive help from emergency response teams if a serious incident (such as an explosion or toxic gas release) occurs. It is therefore important to plan your route to **prevent** accidentally entering the tunnel.

WHAT IS A PLACARDED VEHICLE?

When dangerous goods above a certain quantity (as prescribed in the Regulations) are being transported, either by road or rail, they are considered to be a placarded vehicle. A sign (or placard) must be clearly displayed on the vehicle to show the dangerous goods class.

WHAT IF I MADE MY DELIVERY AND REMOVED ALL DANGEROUS GOODS FROM MY VEHICLE?

You can still receive a fine if you have your placards up, even after removing all dangerous goods from your vehicle.

Placardable quantities of dangerous goods in the tunnel during an incident would initiate a HAZMAT response. The tunnel would then have to be deemed safe enough before anyone else – including emergency services – could enter, potentially delaying help from reaching those who need it.

If you are no longer carrying a placard load, please ensure you revise the placarding on your vehicle.



Example of a placarded vehicle. This vehicle must not enter the Northbridge Tunnel.

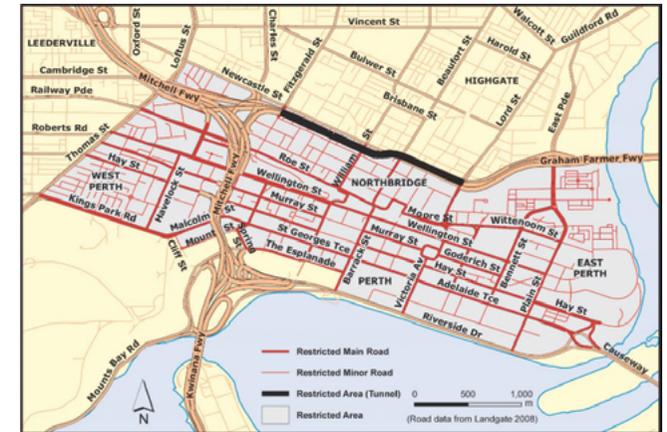
WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES?

The Northbridge Tunnel has **24/7 surveillance**. If you do drive through the tunnel with placards on your vehicle, you will receive a fine.

- \$300 for individuals
- \$1500 for companies

HOW DO I AVOID GOING THROUGH THE NORTHBRIDGE TUNNEL?

- **Pre-plan suitable routes**
Drivers should know exactly where to drive and, specifically, which lane to be in. For drivers not familiar with driving in the metropolitan area, including regional drivers, please



Restricted area boundaries for Perth CBD (grey shading, roads shown in red) and Graham Farmer Freeway tunnel (black)

take a little more time to review your planned route around the tunnel.

- **Use your GPS**
The use of a GPS can be very helpful, especially for drivers who are not used to driving in the metropolitan area. Even if you are confident of the route, some extra technical support provides you with peace of mind – especially when it comes to being in the correct lane to avoid the tunnel. Keep in mind that it is harder for larger vehicles to change lanes at the last moment, so it is important to be in the correct lane as early as possible. Some GPS

units have an *avoid tunnels* setting which should be used.

- **Use geo-fencing**
Geo-fencing is an added function of your GPS which warns you when you are approaching restricted sites, such as the tunnel, by creating a virtual barrier. Speak to your supervisor or manager about implementing this as an additional measure to prevent you from entering the tunnel and receiving a fine.

