

MEDIA RELEASE: EMBARGOED Sunday, 20 October 2019, 12.30pm WST (3.30pm AEDT)

CANNING HIGHWAY BECOMES THE WORLD'S LONGEST STAGE

***Highway to Hell* a free Perth Festival finale on 1 March 2020**

Bring the family and stake your claim along 10km of open highway for a special art, music and entertainment event to celebrate Perth's connection to late, great **AC/DC** front man **Bon Scott**.

Taking inspiration from the AC/DC song, ***Highway to Hell*** will be the world's longest stage and Perth's playground for a day as the free, family-friendly finale to the 2020 **Perth Festival**.

The Festival is presenting *Highway to Hell* in partnership with the **City of Melville**, **City of Fremantle** and **Town of East Fremantle**. This is a major free event for the people of Western Australia to enjoy and it is made possible by the generous support of the **State Government** through **Lotterywest**, **Tourism WA** and other agencies.



Image credit Cam Campbell

Highway to Hell is a once-in-a generation opportunity for residents and visitors to enjoy an afternoon and evening of live performances and other free activities between the Canning and Fremantle Traffic bridges on Sunday 1 March over the Labour Day long weekend.

Diverse local and international acts will perform AC/DC songs from stages on the back of semi-trailers in a slow "hit parade" from Applecross to Fremantle, starting at 5pm and ending at 8.30pm. Artists range from Finnish bluegrass band **Steve 'n' Seagulls** and Japanese female rock trio **Shonen Knife** to the **WA Police Pipe Band**, **Amyl and the Sniffers**, **Perth Symphony Orchestra** and the **Pigram Brothers**.

People are invited to walk the route with the trucks, set up a picnic anywhere along the highway or gather at one of four special activity and entertainment areas: the **Canning Bridge Zone** in Applecross, the **Tompkins Park Zone** in Alfred Cove, the **Valley Zone** in Palmyra and the **Rainbow Zone** in East Fremantle and Fremantle.

“For years, Bon walked this iconic southern stretch of Canning Highway from the Leopold Hotel in Palmyra to Fremantle, and AC/DC lit up the Raffles Hotel with legendary gigs,” **Perth Festival Artistic Director Iain Grandage** says. “Now we’re closing the highway, all 10km of it, for one special day designed for families and fans alike.”

“The idea of closing down the highway to celebrate a favourite son is an exciting way to celebrate our city and bring the curtain down on the 2020 Festival. Everyone is invited. As Bon Scott sings in the song that inspired this event, ‘And all my friends are gonna be there too’.”

Canning Highway will be closed to vehicles from 1pm and roving performers, community choirs, food and market stalls will operate at Tompkins Park and other key zones from 4pm.

Other entertainment will include concerts at key zones along the route, a mass singalong of *Highway to Hell* at Tompkins Park, rock patch-making sessions with the Embroiderers Guild of WA, community choirs, exhibitions, public talks and other activities in the lead-up to the day.

Key intersections will remain open throughout for access to streets north and south of the highway. Canning Highway will reopen to traffic in stages from 9pm to 11pm.

We encourage local residents to walk down and find a picnic spot with friends and family. Extra public transport services also will be provided for the event.

More details will be released in coming weeks so local residents, businesses and Festival-goers can plan ahead.

Highway to Hell marks 40 years since the death of the WA-raised rock legend, who grew up around Fremantle and went to gigs along Canning Highway as a youth. Scott died in London on 19 February 1980, and his ashes were laid to rest at Fremantle Cemetery on 1 March.

Perth Festival runs from 7 February to 1 March. The full program is out on 31 October 2019.

WHAT: HIGHWAY TO HELL

WHERE: Canning Highway from Canning Bridge to Fremantle Traffic Bridge

WHEN: Sun 1 Mar, The trucks roll from 5pm – 8.30pm. Key zones open at 3pm and entertainment starts at 4pm.

MORE INFO: perthfestival.com.au

FAQs, images and video are available [here](#)

For further information or interviews please contact:

Stephen Bevis
Perth Festival Communications Manager
+61 8 6488 8618 / 0448 927 281
sbevis@perthfestival.com.au

Highway to Hell is supported by



**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**



perth now



Perth Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 66 years, the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Iain Grandage is the Artistic Director 2020 – 23.