

## Bellevue Depot Interpretive Fence



## PTA – Bellevue Depot Interpretive Fence

This case study features Signs & Lines recent work with the Public Transport Authority (PTA) at the Bellevue Depot and it takes a look at how we worked to bring the client's artwork vision to life through design, manufacture and install of two large scale interpretive fences, depicting scenes from the depot's history.

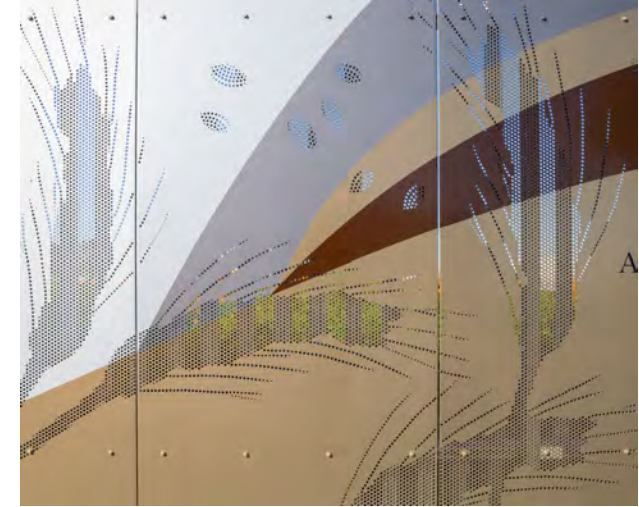
### Continuous Growth and Opportunities

Since the late 1800s, Midland has been a transport junction of major roads and railway and acted as the entry point for regions into the Perth metropolitan area. As part of the state government's Metronet project, Midland Station will soon be relocated to a new station being built between Helena and Cale Street.

Part of the project is connecting the passenger rail network to the new PTA Bellevue Depot and Manufacturing facility, which will ensure that the employment opportunities in the area increase. The Metronet project is one of the largest single investments in public transport Perth has ever seen, bringing with it 70+ kms of new passenger rail and 22 new stations in growing communities.

### Project Snapshot

Project:	Bellevue Depot Interpretive Fence
Location:	57 Elgee Road, Bellevue, Western Australia
Environment:	External Signage
Client:	Perth Transport Authority
Date:	July 2022
Features:	Custom fence signage





## One Stop Shop

Signs & Lines were awarded the tender by Perth Transport Authority (PTA) to create an artistic concept design proposal for the Public Art Interpretive Fence works at the Railcar Assembly depot in Bellevue.

The PTA commissioned two separate but interconnecting pieces of artwork along the fence line at Bellevue Depot. Using perforated aluminium to reveal the design, the artwork interprets the previous use of the depot site as the CBH Grain Transfer Terminal, and its historical ties to the wheat belt, hinterland farming and infrastructure. Artists were called to do their own research on the history of the area and design the artwork accordingly.

It was crucial that the main purpose of the fence was not diminished, after all the fence is an important safety measure.

Signs & Lines proposed two conceptual designs based on the past dynamics of the site and the proud history of Midland.

These fence panels are now proudly installed and displayed at the Bellevue Depot and showcase what is possible when you work with a signage company that lives and breathes not only signs but artistic creativity!



## Blowing In The Wind

Our first approach to the interpretative artwork was to draw on the agricultural and grain history of Midland, incorporating the significance of the Depot as the former Grain Transfer Terminal Building. The artwork depicts wheat kernels and wheat seeds, either stationary or blowing in the wind. Wheat colours are used throughout the design, as well as a gold colour to represent the beautiful colours you see in wheat fields. Each wheat shape was made from perforated aluminium.

## Our History

The second fence artwork took inspiration from the natural habitat, original custodians of the land and what Midland is iconic for ... rail and transport.

The gold circle pattern represents the sun, omnipresent and an iconic feature of the Perth region, and used extensively in Noongar paintings. The birds represent a food source of the Noongar people and are prevalent to the area. The waves represent the Swan River, Perth Hills and the landscape grain was grown on. Metallic silvers, bronze and gold have been chosen, to represent the earthy tones of the new building and the gold and bronze represent the grain when it was harvested.



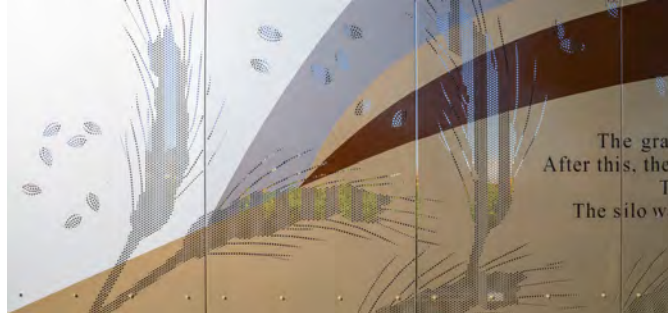


## Making The Magic Happen

Consistency was key for the design elements and the manufacturing materials and techniques as well. Both artwork pieces were manufactured from 6mm aluminium with small and large perforation details to create the appropriate shadow effect. We established a structurally meticulous design to ensure the aluminium does not buckle whilst hundreds of thousands of perforated details were cut in the panels. We also routed out the required text on each panel to millimetre accuracy.

Each fence is 2.1 metres high and 40 metres wide ... yes 40 metres wide! To achieve the width requirements, each fence was manufactured using 33 x aluminium panels. The design meets the client's requirement of ensuring the fence is not solid and installed in as many segments as possible.

Manufacturing a total of 66 x aluminium panels, spanning 80 metres, required meticulous planning from our production team to ensure each panel is made perfectly. Upon installation, all elements of the panel needed to line up to carry out the full design vision and effect. To put the size of this mammoth project into perspective, just under 170sqm of aluminium was used, weighing in just under 1.5 tonnes ... which had to be transported manually panel by panel. Talk about a lot of man power and material involved!



## Painting The Design

Accurate resource planning and allocation was required to ensure our paint department was able to deliver the project on time, whilst completing other day to day paint shop requirements. Our team had to consistently review and adjust the paint department's schedule as the delivery of the 6mm aluminium panel stock was delayed due to Covid impacts in WA.

Each panel went through our paint shop several times to achieve the desired aesthetic. Each panel had to be sanded down individually first and then primed, with most of the panels making their way back into the paint booth 4 to 6 more times to achieve the different colours and shapes across all the panels.

The text on both fences were then black paint filled by hand by our talented sign makers. All panels were 2pac painted to ensure the aluminium is properly protected to look great and withstand the elements.



## Install Challenges

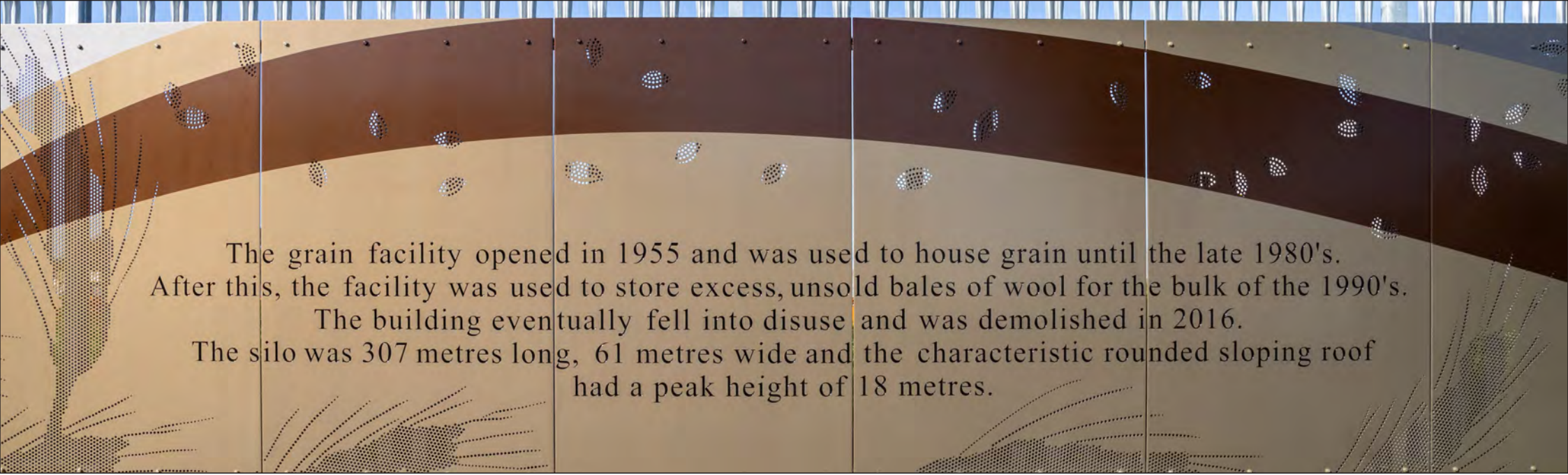
We all know that every project has its challenges and this project was no exception. Luckily our team loves a good challenge and have the expertise to tackle whatever is thrown at us.

When you look at the completed project, you would not guess that ensuring the project was installed level was a challenge, however the installation site was made up of undulated land. This meant our install team had to individually level and perfectly line up the details of each panel as opposed to using the ground or fence as a level indicator.

The existing fence that the aluminium panels were installed on to is made of steel. If we were to install the aluminium panels directly to the steel fence, galvanic corrosion would have occurred and over the time the artwork panels and the fence would have corroded. Our expert and experienced team were able to engineer an intricate solution to ensure the separation of the dissimilar metals via the use of nylon and galvanised fixings.

During the installation process, the strictest OHSE processes were followed to take into consideration the public interferences and safety risks. Our team followed a project specific pedestrian management plan which allowed us to install the works without a hitch and with minimal impact on the public.





The grain facility opened in 1955 and was used to house grain until the late 1980's. After this, the facility was used to store excess, unsold bales of wool for the bulk of the 1990's. The building eventually fell into disuse and was demolished in 2016. The silo was 307 metres long, 61 metres wide and the characteristic rounded sloping roof had a peak height of 18 metres.

#### Our Service Promise

As a professional outfit, we take great pride in our customer service. All engagements with statement projects are built using innovation and a genuine desire to provide outstanding results. Our people are signage experts, with a depth and breadth of experience across design, signs, electrical, engineering, cabinet making, fabrication and marketing backgrounds.

#### Need More Than Just Signage

Our team offers a number of additional services that will help with your signage.

- Design Concepts: Maybe a wayfinding strategy or conceptual drawings for a new building or precinct. Let us create your next project.
- Audits: Full or partial audits of indoor or outdoor facilities. Is your signage working well? Let us give you the full story.
- Aftercare & Maintenance: Servicing or maintenance requirements with photos. Our technology solution will provide a detailed status.
- Repairs: Fix or repair existing signage. Plus a detailed report outlining signage issues & recommended fixes.

#### The Final Wrap

The team will give you a non-biased recommendations and gear your signage to the future. Our experience of static and digital signage solutions will ensure that you receive our trademark outstanding experience.

We're ready to start talking! Speak up now about your next project or idea.



To discuss your own signage strategy please don't  
hesitate to get in touch.

 **SIGNS&LINES**  
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