

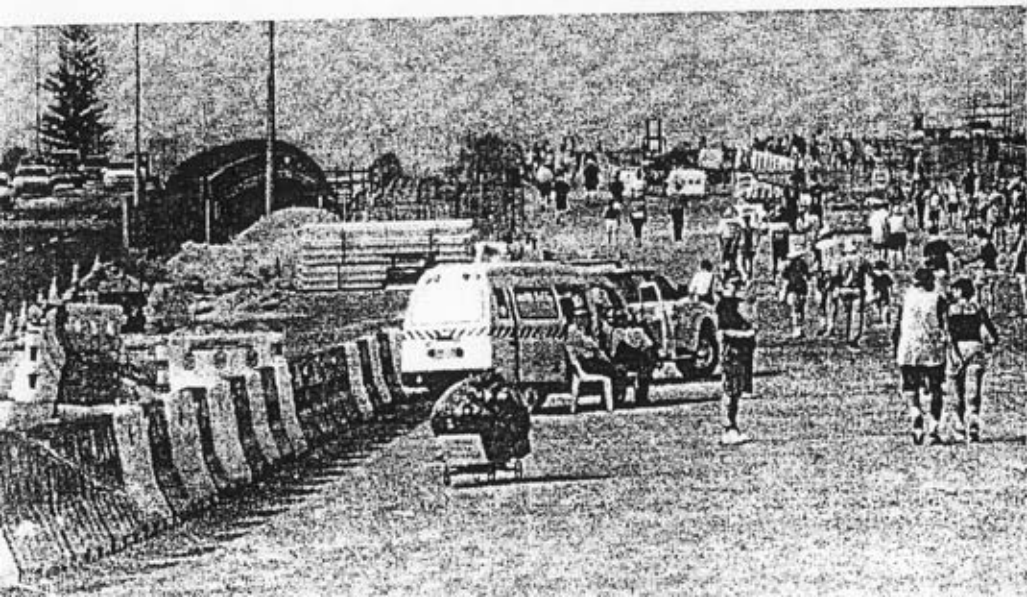
DANNY GARCIA WITH THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT HON. MURRAY CRUICKSHANK



Narrows Bridge

COMMUNITY WALK

About 10,000 Western Australians braved hot and sultry conditions to "walk the Narrows" on Sunday, January 28, 2001. The duplicated Narrows Bridge, being built at a cost of \$49M, was opened to the public for a day prior to its commissioning to traffic in mid-February. The community walk day also provided a valuable fund raiser for the Heart Foundation and Diabetes Australia.



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Walker starts with new bridge

■ By Kate Gauntlett

THERE was no desert mirages, blisters or aching limbs for Danny Garcia when he strolled across the new Narrows Bridge yesterday.

But next month, the 55-year-old American will face all kinds of challenges as he sets out to be the fastest walker across Australia. Yesterday, Mr Garcia was one of an estimated 10,000 people who walked over the bridge, which was open to the public for a community walk.

"The thing I notice in Australia is you guys do this all the time," Mr Garcia said. "It's a great way to spend the day."

Mr Garcia, a former US marine, has walked more than 26,000km in various countries. "In December, 1996, I

started walking across the US, like Forrest Gump," he said. "I didn't plan it, it just evolved."

Mr Garcia will walk from Perth to Sydney, but is yet to decide his route and the charity he will support. He expected the walk would take him until mid-April, covering about 80km a day.

Main Roads spokesperson Dean Roberts said Perth people appreciated the opportunity to view public infrastructure projects.

Some traffic will be diverted to the new bridge in the middle of next month during refurbishments to the old Narrows Bridge and work on approaches to the new bridge.

Both bridges will be opened in late April.

