

PROJECT UPDATE
DECEMBER 2023

New Fitzroy River Bridge Project



Above: Community walkthrough prior to the bridge opening.

Fitzroy River Bridge opens in record speed

The Fitzroy River Bridge has officially opened to traffic less than a year after floods caused irreparable damage to the old bridge.

The new dual-lane bridge is six times stronger and 100 metres longer than the old bridge. Importantly, the new bridge will:

- Reconnect families and communities on the east and west sides of the river
- Boost the resilience of the region to respond to future rain and flooding events
- Improve the safety of pedestrians and road users
- Reinstate essential access underscoring Australia's freight and transport industries.

The opening of the bridge is a significant milestone in the recovery from the floods and welcome relief for the people of Fitzroy Crossing and the wider Kimberley as the next wet season approaches.

To celebrate this remarkable achievement, locals and workers were joined by Premier Roger Cook, Deputy Premier Rita Saffioti and Local MP Davina D'Anna, Federal MP Madeleine King and Senator Glenn Sterle to walk over the bridge before it opened to traffic.

Minor finishing works on the bridge and river embankments will continue until late December and resume in February.

Supporting stronger communities

The fast-tracked construction of the bridge is thanks to the incredible involvement and support from the local community. The project has proudly partnered with local language groups, businesses, community organisations, schools and government agencies.

Local employment and skills development

More than 250 local workers have been employed on the project to date, covering a wide range of roles including operators, labourers and administration.

Workers have gained new skills and been able to nationally-recognised training programs, placing them in good stead to take up future work opportunities.



Above: Workers proofing bolts for the bridge.

Investment in local business

So far, 42 Kimberley-based businesses including 22 in the Fitzroy Valley, have been engaged on the project.

Main Roads and the project team are committed to support emerging businesses in the Valley. Several workers who began work on the bridge, established their own businesses and received support to hire machinery and successfully tender for work.



Above: J7M Contracting undertaking works in Yakanarra.

Schools program

This year, more than 100 students visited the bridge to see the progress first-hand and experience what it's like to work on a construction site. Some schools have made several trips to keep updated on the progress, travelling up to 100 kilometres to visit.

The schools' program, which also included a career expo and mural painting, is designed to provide engaging opportunities for students and showcase the many possible employment pathways in construction.



Above: Wangkatjungka students at site.



Above: Aged-care residents during demolition.

Further information

For more information about the project, call 138 138, email enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au or visit mainroads.wa.gov.au/new-fitzroy-river-bridge.

Supporting culture and community

Children at the local early childhood learning centre and residents from the aged-care home have been regularly engaged and invited to site to witness the demolition and construction of the bridge.

The project was also committed to supporting community initiatives and events that promote and celebrate the Valley's rich culture. This included the Mindi Rardi Traditional Dance Festival, Yajilarra Festival and Stronger Together event.