

Tanami Road Upgrade Project Great Northern Highway to WA Border



Sealing of the 313km Western Australian section of Tanami Road continues, with the Australian and Western Australian State Government allocating \$542.8 million to complete the project over the next 10 years.

Work on the Tanami Road Upgrade Project re-started in early March 2024 to take advantage of the moisture in the ground after the wet season.

By May 2024, more than 100 personnel were working on-site, compared to the 80 strong workforce employed late last year.

Stage 1 – Hills Section

Work on Great Northern Highway to Ruby Plains Station Homestead includes:

- 41km of new road construction
- Installation of 63 culverts
- construction side-tracks; and
- construction of an Information Bay and truck parking bay near the intersection of Great Northern Highway.

10km of road was constructed and sealed last year, with a further 12km of road planned to be sealed by October 2024. Sealing of the full 41km section is planned to be completed in 2025.

Traffic management including the use of a side track is in place to ensure safe interaction between machinery and road users.

Development Activities

Main Roads is continuing to develop designs for the next 73km of road to the Wolf Creek Access Road (114SLK, see map over). Heritage and environment surveys are also underway, with some approvals already in place 60SLK.

The concept design for the remainder of the road to the Northern Territory Border (313SLK) has commenced in preparation for future environment and heritage surveys.

Heritage and Environment

The Project has demarcated environmental and cultural heritage sites using visible yellow flagging with the wording 'No Go Zone' to promote awareness of sensitive areas (pictured below).



Jaru cultural monitoring is on-going in the construction areas.

Main Roads plans to commence engagement with Tjurabalan Native Title Lands Aboriginal Corporation later this year in preparation for upgrading of the road to the Northern Territory Border.



Jaru cultural monitors Phillip Burrell, Frances Burrell and James Gordon with Main Roads Environment Officer JJ Rao (June 2024).

Local and Aboriginal Engagement

To date, work packages have been awarded to 18 local businesses for the provision of plant and equipment, including:

- 12 Halls Creek based businesses
- 22 Kununurra based businesses, and
- 15 Aboriginal businesses of which seven are Jaru Traditional Owners.

Seventy per cent (70%) of people working on the project live in the East Kimberley, including five on the Project Management Team.

Forty-eight per cent (48%) of the hours worked on the project to date have been by Aboriginal personnel, of which 51 per cent are local Aboriginals from the Shire of Halls Creek.

Local Economic Benefits

As at 31 May 2024, more than \$28 million has been paid to local businesses for works completed, with just over \$14 million paid to Aboriginal owned businesses.

Stakeholder and Community Engagement

A Delivery Strategy Workshop was held with key stakeholders in November 2023 (image below) to discuss the project scope, delivery program, timeframe, and objectives including local and Aboriginal participation.

There was overwhelming support to maximise local participation, with delivery of the project to be staged over the next 10 years in order to deliver benefits to the local community, including remote Aboriginal Communities.



Exploring the link road from Duncan to Tanami Road

Main Roads is investigating a new route between Duncan Road and Tanami Road, to provide suitable access for trucks to the pastoral stations and Browns Range Mine from Great Northern Highway. This new link will improve safety for road users by removing haulage trucks through the hills section on Duncan Road.

