



Halls Creek to Kununurra Bridges Project



The \$33 million Halls Creek to Kununurra Bridges project is jointly funded by the Federal (\$26.4 million) and State (\$6.6 million) Governments, to improve safety for road users and freight users who regularly traverse Great Northern Highway.

Milestone reached for the Tickalara Creek and Frog Hollow Creek bridges

The project has continued to focus on the Tickalara Creek and Frog Hollow Creek dual-lane bridge works this year, with construction works complete in June 2024.

Tie-in works are now underway to connect the new structures with the highway, before the new alignment is opened to traffic in late 2024.

Road users will reap many benefits once the bridges open:

- Safety improvements – through the construction of wider bridges with two lanes instead of one.
- More efficient journeys – through less stop/start movements crossing the creeks.
- Less flood impacts – through design specifications ensuring the new bridges are resistant to a 100-year flood event.

The community is already experiencing benefits from the works so far, including the creation of local jobs and procurement of local businesses.

Bridge construction works at Arthur Creek are expected to commence in early 2025 and be complete by late 2025. Further consultation with Traditional Owners is required, which is being undertaken this year.

Local community investment

Construction works so far have demonstrated significant support for local businesses in the Kimberley Region, by spreading project investment across the local economy as widely as possible.

Several hire companies have been engaged for tools, machinery, ablutions, buildings, bores, and pumps, with patronage spread across multiple hardware stores.

Local concreters, tree loppers, electricians, plumbers, mechanics, and material suppliers were also engaged.

A local Aboriginal business was partnered with for crane hire, surveying, fuel supplies, accommodation, traffic management, labour hire and plant operations.

This comprehensive approach has bolstered the local economy, fostered strong community relationships and encouraged sustainable business growth in the region.

It is intended this engagement will continue next year for the Arthur Creek bridge works.

Aboriginal engagement

The two Aboriginal communities located near Tickalara Creek and Frog Hollow Creek were kept closely informed of progress throughout construction.

The Warmun Community, located approximately 25 minutes north of the Tickalara bridge site, and the Frog Hollow Community, located approximately 10 minutes from the Frog Hollow bridge site, were offered business engagement and employment opportunities on the project.

This resulted in eight members of the Warmun Community being trained and engaged on the project as traffic controllers.

To support the traffic controllers training and management, an Indigenous-owned business from Broome was engaged to oversee site traffic management and offer support and guidance to the newly trained employees.

The traffic controllers' employment was transferred from delivery contractor, Fortec Australia, to two Indigenous-owned Halls Creek businesses to provide continuity of service to Main Roads and other contracts in the region.

The project has also employed a Kimberley-based Aboriginal Participation Mentor from nearby Wyndham, and an Aboriginal Engagement Coordinator, who was a Kununurra local.

Employment on the Project includes greater than 20% Aboriginal employment and over \$2.0m of Aboriginal business spend

For further information on the project, subscribe to updates at <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/gnh-bridges/> or contact Main Roads on enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au and 138 138.



Frog Hollow Creek bridge