

# Main Roads in-house delivery of road maintenance and some minor capital works

## Kimberley transition complete

The final stage of the State Government's initiative to return road maintenance works in-house is complete, with the Kimberley region transitioning 18 new staff to Main Roads last November.

The move to in-house maintenance has now been rolled out to all seven regional Main Roads offices, as well as the Metropolitan area and Incident Response Service, with more than 550 new permanent positions. Over 420 of these have been filled by employees previously working for contractors.

As part of the Kimberley transition, Main Roads has acquired MACA's maintenance trucks and equipment, with new light vehicles ordered to supplement the Region's fleet.

A new, larger office has now been leased in Broome with office upgrades and fit-out underway. Staff are expected to move in later this year.

On the property front, 7 new houses have been purchased in Broome and 3 in Kununurra with additional homes expected to be purchased in 2025/26.

Managing Director John Erceg was joined by Parliamentary Secretary Divina D'Anna MLA to mark the milestone event.

"The journey to return maintenance delivery to Main Roads has been a very busy, and exciting one" John said.

"The Kimberley Region is vast, with services to be provided from Broome to Derby to Fitzroy Crossing to Halls Creek to Kununurra.

"Crews will be responsible for routine maintenance across the network, and they'll look after some of the most critical roads – including Great Northern Highway – which are essential for freight and tourism".

John went on to acknowledge the benefits already being realised as part of the transition process.



"We are already seeing the benefits of the direct employment model in the regions that have already transitioned" John said

"We've seen fast response times in repairing critical assets on the network as a result of incidents and weather-related damage.

"Staff also have access to enhanced training and development opportunities, increasing the capability, capacity and sustainability of our employees".

With Phase One of the transition process now complete, we turn our attention to Phase Two.

### What's next?

With the cessation of all former maintenance contracts now complete, the Regions are continuing to work with Human Resources to fill vacant positions and establish minor capital works crews by mid-2026.

Recruitment of Road Workers and Senior Road Workers is currently underway, or has been completed, in most regions. Further recruitment of On-Road Incident Response Crew Officers is also nearing completion to fill current and future vacancies.

### Property, Vehicles & Plant Update

202 new vehicles have been procured across the State since the transition commenced, along with 31 new staff houses purchased or leased in Broome, Port Hedland, Karratha, Newman, Onslow, Geraldton, Northam, Narrogin and Kalgoorlie.

Additionally, almost \$4.5 million has been invested in new or improved offices and maintenance depots in Manjimup, Onslow, Jurien Bay, Broome, Karratha, Esperance, Northam, Katanning, Wedgefield and Newman.

A new depot has also been leased in Hazelmere and is currently being constructed. The almost 12,000m<sup>2</sup> site, will be the third major maintenance depot for Main Roads in the Metropolitan Region, complementing facilities in Neerabup and Jandakot.

It will include a 6,000m<sup>2</sup> hardstand, 2,000m<sup>2</sup> warehouse and 400m<sup>2</sup> office, with parking for 28 maintenance vehicles and 67 light vehicles.

A wash down bay will also be installed, along with infrastructure for the installation of EV charging stations to support the introduction of EV maintenance trucks, in line with Main Roads' Net Zero 2050 Transition Roadmap.

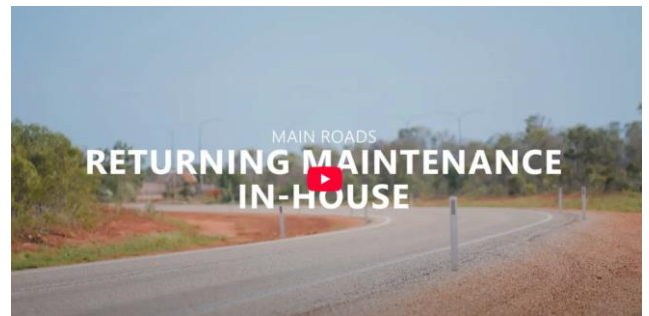
The depot will be home to up to 30 road and bridge maintenance crew members and will facilitate more efficient and timely service of the State's increased road network management responsibilities.

The upgrade and expansion of the office and depot network, particularly in regional Western Australia, highlights the State Government's commitment to the regions as part of the transition process.

It also provides better long-term regional employment opportunities across Western Australia, and enhanced local interface for Main Roads customers.

### Celebrating Three Years

1 April 2025 marked three years since the return to in-house transition was announced. [Click here to watch our anniversary video](#) about the initiative, which has been successfully rolled out across the State.



### Aboriginal Engagement

Since the transition commenced, the number of Main Roads' employees who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander has increased from 30 people in June 2022 to 114 people at 30 April 2025. There are also 119 Aboriginal businesses now part of the Panel Contracts for In-House Maintenance.

The Transport Portfolio Aboriginal Engagement (TPAE) team has also been working on a few exciting things post transition:

- A panel contract for the Provision of Training and Business Capability Support Services has been established to provide support for Aboriginal Businesses and Peoples.
- The team is in the process of establishing a cross portfolio panel contract for Cultural Competency to support Stakeholders throughout the State.
- An Aboriginal Art, Language and Story Protocol is being implemented, with the aim of building and strengthening relationships with Aboriginal peoples and communities that are based on respect for Indigenous knowledge and free, prior, informed consent.



## South West Region implements 'mill and fill' for pavement failures

With more than 7,000m<sup>2</sup> of road across the South West Region programmed for pavement failure repairs in 2024/25, the South West Region is continuing to complete work using a 'mill and fill' treatment method.

The holding treatment is used on isolated pavement failures and shoving defects (where the road surface bulges, creating a bump) across the network, until permanent treatments can be funded.

Mill and fill provides greater coverage for key hotspots on the road network, allowing repairs to be completed more efficiently to maximise road user safety.



*Pavement repair work underway in the South West Region.*

## New Emergency Response Trailers for Great Southern Region

Crews in the Great Southern Region now have access to two new emergency trailers (*pictured below right*), to assist in the rapid deployment of essential items during incidents.

The trailers are fitted with traffic signage, cones, STOP/SLOW bats, water, emergency food, battery and charging capabilities and lighting, and are designed to support road crews in incident management.

Regional Director Andrew Duffield said there is now one trailer at each depot – in Albany, Katanning and Ravensthorpe.

"The trailers have been put to good use by our maintenance crews responding to incidents on the network" Andrew said.

"Having access to all of the required gear reduces our response time, while the trailers allow us to better support crews in the field when incidents extend over multiple days."



## Apprentice Graduation

The Wheatbelt Region's inaugural group of apprentices have graduated! Among them is Matt King (*pictured on site above*), based in Northam, who has completed his Certificate III in Civil Construction. Matt's training has enabled him to gain valuable on-the-job skills across road construction and safety operations.

"I learned about the apprentice opportunity online and, since commencing my apprenticeship, have been lucky enough to travel widely across the region" Matt said.

"The position has given me the opportunity to appreciate the sights of the Wheatbelt, while contributing to the safety of the local road network".

Matt hopes to continue his career with Main Roads, while supporting his young family.

