

# Outback Way



## 'Australia's Longest Shortcut' will soon be a reality with construction works underway on the iconic road.

Outback Way is a 2,700 kilometre iconic route from Laverton in Western Australia to Winton in Queensland via Alice Springs. Over 1,400 kilometres of the route remains 'unsealed', including almost 800 kilometres of the Great Central Road, which is the Western Australian section of the route. When complete, Outback Way

will be Australia's third transcontinental highway. It will also provide a critical connection for the remote Aboriginal communities of Cosmo Newberry, Warburton, Mantamaru, Wanarn and Warakurna

### Who is the Wongutha Way Alliance

This project is being delivered by the Wongutha Way Alliance (WWA), comprising Main Roads, CareyMC and Central Earthmoving Company who are working together to deliver this iconic project.

'Wongutha' refers to the broad group of local Aboriginal people that reside in the area. An objective of the project is to maximise Aboriginal employment and business opportunities to help benefit local communities.

Jointly funded by the Australian (\$37.2 million) and Western Australian (\$9.3 million) Governments, the \$46.5 million sealing of Great Central Road, also known as **Outback Way** has commenced. When complete it will be **Australia's third transcontinental highway.**

### Symbolic, locally designed logo

The project logo (pictured below) was designed by local Wongutha artist, Noni Bonney and inspired by the story of the journey from planning to delivery of the project. The lines represent the road and the tracks of the people who have been involved with the project along the way.

The road connects each community as it passes through. Meetings take place with all stakeholders where they yarn to plan the works, then celebrate as they move forward on the journey to the next destination. The shape of the lines and locations of the communities is the map of the journey.



In July, Minister for Transport, Hon Rita Saffioti visited the project. Left to Right: Project Manager Dave King, Minister for Transport, Hon Rita Saffioti and Lewis Collard

## What's happening?

The Shire of Laverton sealed a 50 kilometre section of road in 2018. The WWA are now working to upgrade a 40 kilometre section, commencing from the end of the existing sealed road located 12 kilometres east of Laverton.

In late July, pre-construction activities commenced including water bore drilling, establishment of turkey nests and material stockpiles.

A gravel pit for the 40 km road reconstruction project was established, allowing gravel to be sourced and provided locally.

On 3 September, foundation preparation commenced from the eastern end of the project, heading west towards Laverton. This will include importing material from our borrow pits, grading works, traffic management and roller operation.



Construction of the gravel pit

## Training and Employment Opportunities

The Wongutha Way Alliance has been preparing for this project since 2019, with the recruitment of local Aboriginal people into structured training programs.

These programs included theory and practical 'hands-on' training modules, which were carried out in the Laverton Community Hall, Carey's Laverton yard and nearby sites.

A graduation ceremony was held in Laverton on 14 February where each trainee was presented with their training certificate. As a surprise on the day, the trainees were each offered a job with CareyMC Pty to work on Outback Way.

The presentation was held in front of family members, and representatives from the community including elected Council members and local police.

On-the-job training including traffic management and plant operation has continued since March. Due to COVID-19

travel restrictions this training and the commencement of work was disrupted.

However several trainees were able to continue working on a neighbouring State Government funded project south of Leonora, to overlay Goldfields Highway near Gwalia.

Both CareyMC and Central Earthmoving have embraced the State Government's commitment to increase employment opportunities for local Aboriginal people and businesses in the region. CareyMC Managing Director, Daniel Tucker and CEO, Allan James are both from the Northern Goldfields region and are committed to improving living and working conditions for local Aboriginal people.

CareyMC operates a Registered Training Organisation (Carey Training), and will work with the Wirrpanda Foundation to provide Certificate III (Civil Construction and Plant Operation) courses for new local staff.

## Aboriginal Participation

WWA is committed to ensuring that Aboriginal Participation opportunities, both in terms of Employment of Aboriginal Persons and Procurement from Aboriginal Businesses, are created through this project.



## Notice to Road Users

There will be minimal disruption to road users.

Traffic management is in place and road users are asked to obey these signs at all times.

## Further information

For further information, please visit the Main Roads website at [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au) or call 138 138.

This document can be provided in alternative formats upon request

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