



# Duncan and Gordon Downs Roads Upgrade



Jointly funded by the Australian (\$40.8 million) and Western Australian (\$10.1 million) Governments, the \$51 million project upgrades Duncan and Gordon Downs Roads in Halls Creek.

The Duncan and Gordon Downs Roads upgrade project in Halls Creek is well underway, with Main Roads and the Shire of Halls Creek working together to deliver this important project.

## What's happening?

The Shire of Halls Creek and other local contractors have made good progress towards completing critical sections this year.

Upgrades to sections of Duncan and Gordon Downs Roads will improve accessibility during future wet seasons. Works completed to date include:

- raising, widening and gravel sheeting of the road formation on black soil plains;
- installation of pipe and box culverts at various locations including some major creeks;
- construction and sealing of cement stabilised floodways, including the 3.2km Sturt Creek crossing floodway; and
- installation of grids and sealing the approaches.

Work completed this year will result in fewer road closures over the wet season, particularly the Sturt Creek crossing, which can close for several months when the creek is flowing.



Pouring of culvert base slab, Sturt Creek Crossing upgrade, September 2020

## Upcoming works

In early 2021, work will commence on upgrades to Gordon Downs Road and improvements to a major jump-up on Duncan Road. The water bore drilling program will also be completed.

In late 2021 focus will shift to the safety upgrades on Duncan Road. Work will commence at the Gordon Downs Road intersection through the first two 'hill' sections.

## Timing

Work commenced early 2020, and is expected to be completed late 2022.

## Trainee program launched

In conjunction with this project, the Shire of Halls Creek launched a trainee program in July 2020 with seven local Aboriginal residents commencing a Certificate 3 in Civil Construction.



North Regional TAFE, Halls Creek.

The program, run by North Regional TAFE comprises four weeks of theory followed by 12 weeks in the field learning traffic control and obtaining a HR licence and other plant tickets.

The initiative will run for three years and is expected to provide up to 60 traineeships. The aim is for the trainees to become work-ready and take advantage of current and planned projects within the Shire of Halls Creek over the next five to seven years.

## Locals join the team

We welcome two new local employees from the Jaru language group- Kaylene Cox, our Community Relations Officer based in Halls Creek and Donny Imberlong, our Environment Officer based in the

Kununurra Office. Both Kaylene and Donny are happy working alongside their Jaru people, and the team.



Kaylene Cox, Peter Wein and Donny Imberlong - all Jaru traditional owners, November 2020.

## Heritage surveys

A Heritage Protection Agreement is in place between Main Roads and Jaru Traditional Owners. This allows Main Roads to undertake an Aboriginal heritage surveys with Jaru in early December 2020. A separate agreement will be entered into with Koongie-Elvire in 2021. Working closely with Traditional Owners, Main Roads will ensure works will not impact on heritage sites.

## Community engagement

The team regularly visits the Yaruman (Ringers Soak) community to provide updates and gather feedback. Community members are looking forward to the upgrades at the black soil plains and Sturt Creek Crossing enabling improved access to Halls Creek.



Nida Tchooga, Rita Brown and Francine Tchooga Ringer, October 2020.

## Further information

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