

Duncan Road and Gordon Downs Road Upgrade



Sealing of the Sturt Creek crossing has been completed including the installation of culverts. Locals can expect shorter road closures over the wet season when the creek is flowing.

Main Roads and the Shire of Halls Creek have agreed to suspend roadworks in 2021 to allow more time to undertake the outstanding Aboriginal heritage surveys.

Further community consultations are planned to provide more information on the scope and impact of planned works. Main Roads and the Shire are hopeful to commence some activities later this year, in preparation for roadworks recommencing in 2022.

Most sub-contractors have been engaged on other Main Roads projects within the region. While the Shire's workforce is being employed to maintain other roads in their network. These measures will ensure that the local contractors and Shire workers have ongoing work and will be available to work on the project next year.

Completed Works

Prioritised upgrade work completed to date include:

- 37.8 kms of gravel sheeting on blacksoil plains.
- Installation of 33 culverts.
- Upgrading and sealing of 3 floodways.

- Construction and sealing of Sturt Creek Floodway crossing (3.2 kms long).
- Upgrading of 7 cattle grids.

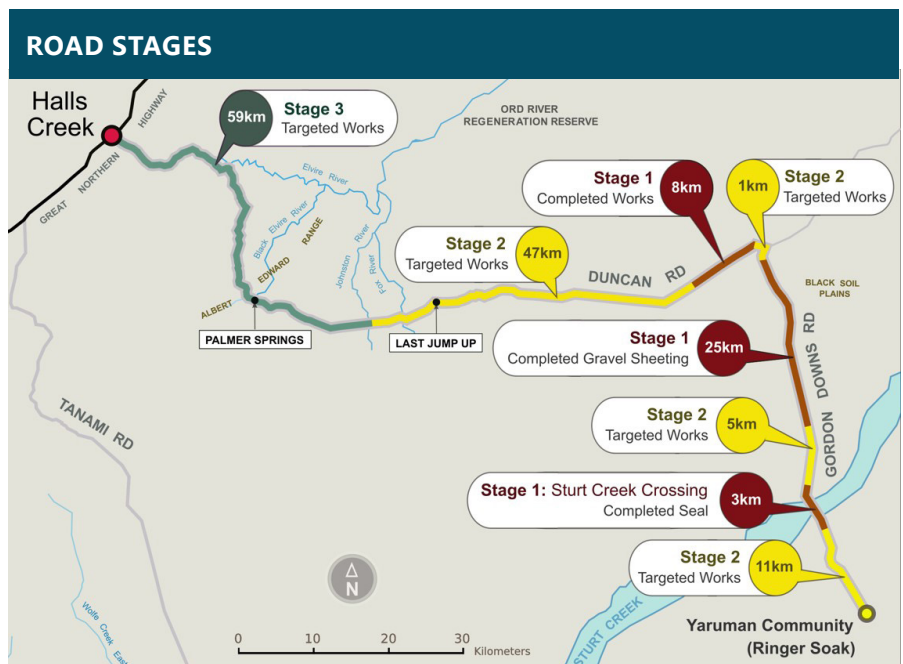
These priority works will reduce the number and time of road closures during the wet season, providing better access to the Yaruman Community.

Upcoming Works

- Completion of targeted works on Gordon Downs Road including gravel sheeting and drainage improvements.

Duncan Road:

- Gravel sheeting on black soil plains
- Improvements to major jump-ups





- Gravel sheeting and drainage improvements through the undulating middle section.
- Drainage and safety improvements through the 'hills country'.

Planned works for 2021

Subject to heritage approvals, it is planned to complete gravel pit investigations and stockpiling, as well as drilling of water bores in 2021, in preparation for recommencement of roadworks in 2022.

Aboriginal Heritage Survey Timeline

In August 2019, the Shire commenced heritage surveys with Jaru traditional owners under the Shire's historic practices to carry out their on-going maintenance programs.

In October 2019, Main Roads commenced on the project, using the Shire's historic clearances practices.

Then in early 2020 The Shire formed a partnership with Main Roads, and finalised a Heritage Protection Agreement (HPA).

Due to wet weather in December 2020 – Heritage surveys were cancelled. In 2021, heritage surveys were further delayed due to some unresolved matters, requiring further consultation.

Main Roads, Kimberley Land Council and the Jaru traditional owners are working together to find a way forward.

Community information sessions

In July 2021, Main Roads held information sessions in Yaruman (Ringer Soak) community and Halls Creek to provide an update on the project and gather feedback.

Presentation material included maps, details of completed works to-date and planned works for the completion of the project.



Yaruman community information session, July 2021.

The local Jaru Traditional Owners living in Halls Creek highlighted sites of cultural significance along the road and how these sites would be protected. As part of the HPA with the Traditional Owners, they will survey the work areas (yet to be undertaken) to provide their input and feedback regarding any potential impacts to Aboriginal heritage sites and sites of cultural significance.

The remote community of Yaruman are willing to assist other Jaru Traditional Owners with heritage surveys. Chairperson Peter Wein said "We want the road and want to sit down with KLC, EHSIS and the people in Halls Creek to talk about the road."

Main Roads will work with the Traditional Owners to avoid, minimise and reduce negative impacts where possible.

Locals engaged on the Project

The project is committed to engaging locals, both contractors and workers. Of the total hours worked since commencement, 63% are by Kimberley contractors with a further 15% by the Shire's own local workforce.

In 2020, eight Halls Creek locals completed a Certificate III in Civil Construction and of these, 7 are now working for the Shire of Halls Creek. In March this year, eight locals enrolled into the Certificate III with two participants already securing work. It is expected another five participants to graduate in the coming weeks.



Shire's trainees - on-site learning at gravel pit.

Aboriginal people on the project are engaged through our contractors as well as the Shire of Halls Creek.

Since the start of the project in 2019, 36% of hours worked on the project have been by Aboriginal people, of which 95% are locals.

12% of contracted works went to local Aboriginal businesses, which is above the target of 10%. Services provided included safety, traffic management, plant hire and culvert installation.

Kenneth Rivers, owner operator of Wawuleny Enterprises commenced on the project in 2020. Kenneth worked closely with Main Roads staff and site supervisors to hone his grading skills. This has led him and his other grader operator to work more closely with final trim grader operator, Graham Fysh of Graham Fysh Grader Hire. "Graham has shown us a lot to help us better our knowledge of grader operating and roadbuilding".

Logo for the Project



Angela Gordon is a resident of Yaruman community and a well-known local artist. The logo represents the

Yaruman waterhole (Ringers Soak) and its colours tells of the soak the land, flowers and trees. The logo proudly represents the project and is embroidered on the shirts worn by contractors and workers.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

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