

New Fitzroy River Bridge Project

Connecting a community - more than just a bridge

Just four months on from commencement, the New Fitzroy River Bridge has made great progress. The project is not just about steel and concrete, it's also about supporting local communities as they rebuild following the devastation of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie. This includes providing jobs and training, supporting local events and fostering greater cultural awareness and appreciation among our workforce.

Project welcomes new local employees

The team continues to welcome new local employees to the project. Our workforce now comprises more than 100 local employees from the Fitzroy Valley working across machine operations, site maintenance, administration and more.

Marlene is one of our new starters on the project, supporting with administration and recruitment. Marlene brings a wealth of professional experience and local knowledge to the team.

Right: *Marlene processing local employment documents.*



Schools program

The project is developing a dedicated high school program to provide local students with a behind the scenes look at what goes into a major construction project. In July, students will have the opportunity to attend a Careers Day and hear from safety specialists, engineers, surveyors and more. In the months ahead, students will be able to visit the work site to learn more about the design and construction of the bridge.

Fitzroy Valley Rodeo rides again...with support from the Bridge team



On the last weekend of June, Fitzroy Crossing held their first rodeo since 2019. To ensure this much-loved event went ahead, the project team provided some materials to prepare the grounds, gave up their time to volunteer and provided a helping hand to the organisers throughout the day. The project team were grateful for the opportunity to meet and interact with the local community.

Left: *Volunteers at the Fitzroy Valley Rodeo*



Cultural awareness and appreciation

Recognition, respect and inclusion of Aboriginal people and culture, is one of the key values of the project. We are working actively with local leaders and community members to develop cultural awareness programs and foster a better understanding of the history of the Fitzroy Valley. The programs will be delivered on country and focus on local history, the impact of colonisation, customs and traditions.

In June, the Gooniyandi people welcomed new members of the construction team onto their traditional lands by holding a smoking ceremony.

Above: Smoking ceremony held by the Gooniyandi people.

Construction progress

Construction continues to make good progress despite rare dry season rain which resulted in the temporary closure of the low-level crossings and restricted access between the east and west Kimberley.

Right: Fitzroy River flowing over the dual lane crossing prior to closure.



Getting ready to launch

Work is continuing on the launchpad on the western side of the river. This is where the bridge will be assembled and then launched across the river one segment at a time.

Launching the bridge from the embankment in increments will mean that construction should not be affected by the next wet season and rising water levels.



Piling and pile caps

Since early June, work has been ongoing to drive 34 piles into the riverbed. Once the piles are installed, the project team will construct a thick concrete slab, known as a pile cap, on top of them. Each pile cap will be 2 metres high, 5 metres wide and 12 metres long. Construction of the pile caps is planned to begin in July.

Left: Construction action on the causeway prior to flooding.

Piers

The shells for the bridge pier segments are currently being fabricated in Perth. Once the segments are ready, they will be transported to Fitzroy Crossing with the first segments to arrive in mid to late July.

Bridge beams and deck

The bridge beams and bridge deck are also being fabricated in Perth. The beams will provide structural support for the different sections of the bridge. The bridge deck is the upper surface you can walk or drive on. The first components are expected to start arriving on site from late July onwards.



Right: Artist's impression of the pile caps and piers on the New Fitzroy River Bridge.

Project support



Workers' camp

Construction is well underway on the workers' camp, situated 10km west of town. The fencing and installation of services is now complete. Work to level and construct the foundations is continuing.

The communal facilities including kitchen and dining areas have been commissioned. Accommodation units are continuing to arrive on site and will be set up and connected to services throughout July.

The camp is expected to be complete in early August, with workers to begin moving in from late July.

Above: Services being laid onsite at the new workers' camp.

To progress this project as quickly as possible, the team works seven days a week at all our construction locations, which include the bridge site, the concrete batch plant (near the power station) and at the new camp location (10km out of town). Usual hours of operation are from 6am to 5pm, however, on some days the team may continue working until 7pm.

Further information

For more information about the project:

- Chat to the team in the Old Café in Fitzroy Crossing
- Visit the Main Roads project page: mainroads.wa.gov.au/new-fitzroy-river-bridge,
- Email enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au or
- Call 138 138.