

Manuwarra Red Dog Highway



Introducing...Manuwarra Red Dog Highway

Stage 3 of what was [Karratha Tom Price Road](#), is now [complete](#). To mark the occasion, the road was [officially renamed Manuwarra Red Dog Highway](#) on 3 September 2020 by Premier Hon Mark McGowan, and Minister for Transport, Hon Rita Saffioti.

The \$81.5 million project was jointly funded by the Australian and State Governments and was one of the McGowan Government's key election commitments. Now this stage is complete, there is improved access to the popular Millstream Chichester and Karijini National Parks.

This was a big project in the Pilbara, providing 100 local jobs and opportunities, with a particular focus on Aboriginal employment.

During the busy construction period, there was some massive amounts of material used, carted, laid, formed and filled this included:

- 615,650 tonnes of crushed rock material for pavement construction;
- 266,770 tonnes of gravel for subgrade construction;
- 592,835 litres of bitumen for sealing;

- 2515 tonnes of concrete was batched and placed for drainage structures;
- 7960 tonnes of rock for rock protection;
- 210,984 m³ of fill was excavated from on-site borrow pit and placed on site.



What's in a name?

Manuwarra is the Yindjibarndi word for 'heaps' or 'masses' and the people use it to describe the nearby Red Dog Gorge, located inside the Millstream Chichester National Park.

Red Dog is synonymous with the legendary red cloud kelpie/cattle dog that roamed the Pilbara region befriending travellers in the 1970's. Known as 'Red Dog', he was renowned for hopping into cars travelling to wherever they were going. Red Dog was born in the mining town of Paraburdoo in 1971 and became a much-loved member of the Pilbara community. He had many adventures, several owners, and died in 1979.

The opening ceremony

To watch the opening ceremony and renaming of Manuwarra Red Dog Highway, click on the [video below](#)



The final stage

Focus now shifts to the final 108km sealed link between Karratha and Tom Price.

The 108 km final stage of the Manuwarra Red Dog Highway extends from the Rio Tinto rail crossing to Nanutarra-Munjina Road and will stay on the western side of the Rio Tinto rail line to minimise the number of rail crossings along the highway.

A small deviation is planned around Hamersley Homestead to ensure sensitive indigenous areas are preserved. This will tie back into an underpass under the FMG rail line (Eliwana Arch) which is currently under construction. See below.



The project is moving into the design development stage.

Current activities include concept design, geotechnical and water investigations, Aboriginal heritage assessments, flora and fauna surveys and hydrology.

Main Roads are working with key stakeholders to inform the design process, optimise construction material usage and explore opportunities for participation with Aboriginal groups and mining companies for positive outcomes to all communities and industry along the corridor.

Construction of the final stage of Manuwarra Red Dog Highway is expected to commence in 2022.

Want to find out more?

If you would like to keep updated on the progress on the next stage of the Manuwarra Red Dog Highway, please subscribe to updates on the [Main Roads website](#)