



# KIMBERLEY FLOOD UPDATE



8 February 2023

## Staged re-opening of Willare Crossing on Great Northern Highway between Broome and Derby

A temporary single-lane gravel track has been constructed on damaged sections of the Willare Crossing, allowing for an early staged reopening of the road providing access between Broome and Derby and Fitzroy Crossing.

As it is still the wet season, Main Roads will be monitoring the conditions of the temporary gravel roads and river levels, and if necessary, short-term closures may be implemented if the unsealed road conditions deteriorate due to further rainfall or there is a risk that the river floods again. For the latest road condition information visit the [Main Roads Travel Map](#).

### STAGE 1 – Thursday 9 February to Sunday 12 February

Great Northern Highway will be re-opened to all vehicles from **Thursday 9 February** through to **Sunday 12 February** between the hours of **8am and 4pm only**. Vehicles will be escorted through in convoy on a temporary single lane gravel road under speed restrictions in an alternating east to west traffic flow arrangement.

The departure points will be:

- Derby side (east) - Willare Roadhouse
- Broome side (west) - Cockatoo Creek Floodway approx. 120km from Roebuck Roadhouse.

Travel times across the 10-kilometre section are likely to be around 15 minutes. Wait times at the controlled access points either side of Willare Crossing during Stage 1 may be up to 30 minutes, therefore motorists should plan for some delay in their trips.

Road users must follow all traffic management and drive to the conditions. Vehicles will not be permitted to stop during the transit of the crossing and must remain in the convoy.

The road will be barricaded and closed overnight between 4pm to 8am for motorists' own safety, as the roadway is still unsafe in some areas and not suitable for night-time travel.

### STAGE 2 – From Monday 13 February for two weeks

The second stage of the reopening will be in place for up to two weeks or until crews can get the road widened to be able

to operate safely under two-lane traffic flows. Limiting access during the second stage is required to allow road crews to add a second lane to the temporary gravel track.

Vehicles will be escorted through the works in convoy twice daily in each direction (i.e. one trip through each way in the morning and afternoon). The convoy will depart at the following times:

- Derby side – from Willare Roadhouse at **7.30am and 4.30pm SHARP**
- Broome side – Cockatoo Creek Floodway at **8.00am and 5.00pm SHARP**

The road will be closed outside of these hours for safety reasons. Those that arrive late or outside of these hours will not be able to proceed and will need to wait or return to their point of origin.

Road users must follow all traffic management and drive to the conditions. Vehicles will not be permitted to stop during the transit of the crossing and must remain in the convoy.

### How do I find out more information?

The [Kimberley Flood Response](#) webpage is the hub for all of Main Roads related flood response activities. You can also subscribe for updates delivered directly to your inbox. <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/kimberley-flood>

For the latest road condition information visit the [Main Roads Travel Map](#) <https://travelmap.mainroads.wa.gov.au/Home/Map>

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