



# KIMBERLEY FLOOD UPDATE



25 January 2023

## Background

Tropical Cyclone Ellie, began in December 2022, crossing the Northern Territory coast over New Year and the subsequent tropical low settled over the Fitzroy River Catchment area for about a week dumping heavy rain and causing the worst flood in Western Australia’s history.

## How was the road network affected?

Three main areas were affected from the flood event.



### 1. Great Northern Highway, Willare

About 10 kilometres of Great Northern Highway along the Willare Floodway was damaged with 3 kilometres of the section sustaining severe damage requiring a full reconstruction. The remainder has partial damage to batters and seal.



### 2. Fitzroy Crossing

Significant damage has occurred to the Bridge at Fitzroy Crossing resulting in a total collapse at the Fitzroy Lodge end. The other end of the bridge is still standing, but unsafe.



### 3. Gibb River Road

A section of the Gibb River Road has also sustained significant damage to the unsealed surface.



## What are we doing?

We are doing everything we can to reconnect the Great Northern Highway as fast as possible. Our road construction crews are working in challenging conditions of the wet season.

### 1. Great Northern Highway, Willare

Repairs are progressing on the Willare and Cockatoo Creek ends of Great Northern Highway with works to start later this week on the washed out 3 kilometre section.

Temporary gravel roads will be constructed initially with permanent road works planned for the dry season.

Around 30,000 cubic metres of crushed rock and 12,000 cubic metres of gravel fill have been transported to the construction areas for stockpiling with camp sites being established to house road construction workers.



### 2. Fitzroy Crossing

Assessments on the existing structure are now complete and the bridge requires a complete rebuild.

The procurement process for construction of a new two-lane higher and longer bridge has begun.

In the interim we will be implementing a barge system across the Fitzroy River restoring critical access needs.

This will be in place in the next few weeks and will remain in place whilst we construct a low-level floodway crossing, which will provide a more permanent option while the full replacement of the Fitzroy Crossing Bridge is undertaken.



### 3. Gibb River Road

Minor repairs are unable to be carried out on Gibb River Road at this stage due to the wet and muddy conditions



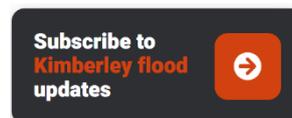
## Other support work

Crews are assisting the Water Corporation with earthworks to enable the reconnection of the main sewer line at the Fitzroy Bridge this week.

Main Roads recently completed the hardstands works for generators at the Derby Power Station and have been assisting with other site works to get the power running.

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