



KIMBERLEY FLOOD UPDATE



6 February 2023

Background

In late December 2022, Tropical Cyclone Ellie, crossed the Northern Territory coast and the subsequent tropical low settled over the Fitzroy River Catchment causing significant damage to the Fitzroy Crossing Bridge and sections of Great Northern Highway along the Willare Floodway. A section of the unsealed surface on Gibb River Road has also sustained significant damage.

Latest News

The Willare section of Great Northern Highway is 10 kilometres long and comprises the main Willare Bridge, three minor Bridges (Cockatoo Creek, Minnie and Ski Lake) as well as 3 floodways. Three kilometres of this section of Highway over several sections sustained severe damage requiring a full reconstruction.

This week critical temporary repair works will be completed, which include the construction of a temporary single-lane gravel track, allowing for a staged re-opening.

As part of the staged reopening, vehicles will be escorted through in alternating east and west convoys, using the single lane gravel track under speed restrictions.

The reopening will occur in the following stages:

- Stage 1 - access to all vehicles from Thursday 9 February through to Sunday 12 February between the hours of 8am and 4pm only.
- Stage 2 - escorted access to all vehicles from Monday 13 February one-way, twice daily:
 - Derby side (east) convoys leaving at 7.30am and 4.30pm
 - Broome side (west) convoys leaving at 8am and 5pm

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.

Permanent repair works to be undertaken in the dry season.

Travel times across the 10-kilometre section are likely to average between 15 – 20 minutes per convoy. Wait times at the controlled access points either side of the temporary track at the Willare Roadhouse and the Cockatoo Creek Bridge are likely to average 30 minutes.

All vehicles will need to follow the direction of traffic controllers and drive to the reduced speed limit.

Crews will be monitoring the weather and road conditions and if necessary short-term closures may be implemented if the unsealed conditions deteriorate due to further significant rainfall.



How do I find out more information?

The [Kimberley Flood Response](https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/kimberley-flood) 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>

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