

ROADS — GIBB RIVER ROAD CONDITION

**3241. Ms J. Farrer to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the section of the Gibb River Road between Iminji to Ellenbrae in the Kimberley, and I ask:

- (a) is the Minister satisfied with the quality of the road in this area;
- (b) has Main Roads consulted with residents in the area regarding the quality of the road, and if so when; and
- (c) are there any planned upgrades to this road over the course of the forward estimates?

**Mr D.C. Nalder replied:**

- (a)–(c) The Liberal–National Government is developing a 10 Year Improvement Strategy for the Gibb River Road to ensure sections are prioritised and available funding is applied to those areas of greatest need. As part of this work Main Roads has, and will, continue to consult with stakeholders such as local communities, pastoralists and the general public to ensure the road is progressively upgraded to achieve long term safety, accessibility, efficiency and productivity benefits.

Recent works have included 47 kilometres of formation and drainage improvements and 32 kilometres of resheeting works, addressing concerns of local communities and pastoralists. In 2014–15 it is proposed to commence pre-construction activities associated with the staged reconstruction of 62.3 kilometres of Gibb River Road from Derby Highway to Blina Road and complete 33 kilometres of road reconstruction between Mt Elizabeth Road and Gibb River Station Road involving formation/geometry improvements, drainage works, floodway upgrades and gravel sheeting costing \$4.5m.

To ensure safety until the road improvement strategy is complete, maintenance grading is carried out four times a year and priorities are reassessed annually after each wet season.