

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 21 March 2023

C334. Hon Neil Thomson to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Transport

I refer to alternative routes into the East Kimberley, and I ask;

1. Is the Minister aware that the Albanese Government has delayed funding for the upgrade of the Tanami Road through cashflow adjustments after coming into Government
2. Can the Minister table the cash flows for the Tanami Road before and after the Albanese Governments cost cutting measures?
3. Is the Minister aware that the Tanami Road would reduce wet season sealed travel distances via Alice Springs by over 1000km if it were sealed?

Answer

- 1-2. Construction on Tanami Road is expected to commence in mid-2023, as outlined in the project update published in August 2022. I table a copy for your information.
Details regarding the project budget and cash flows are publicly available
 3. This is one of the reasons the State Government is investing in this project.
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PROJECT UPDATE
AUGUST 2022

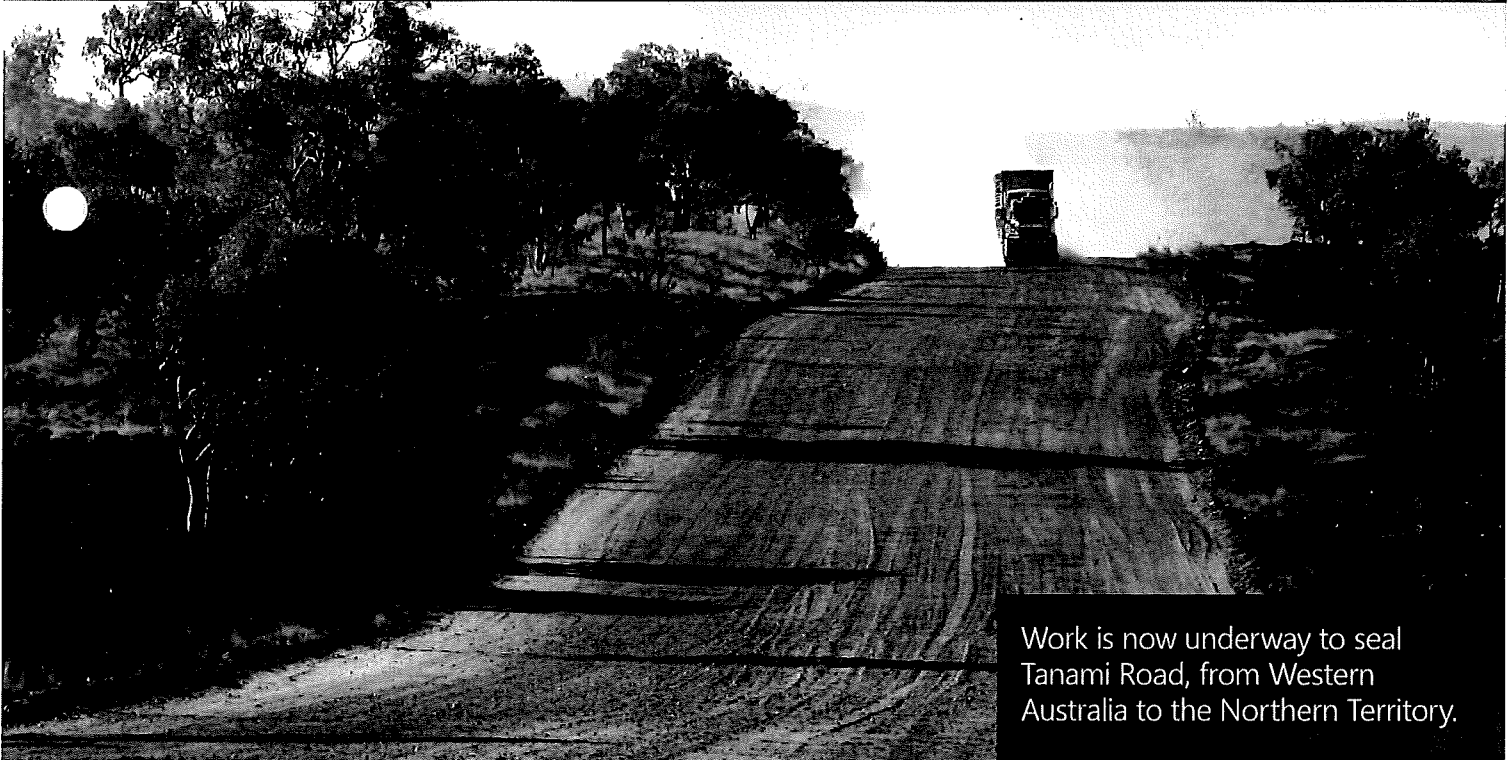


Australian Government



mainroads
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Tanami Road Upgrade Great Northern Highway to WA Border



Work is now underway to seal Tanami Road, from Western Australia to the Northern Territory.

Tanami Road is 1,035 kms long, linking Alice Springs in the Northern Territory to Halls Creek in Western Australia.

Tanami Road is mostly unsealed, can be difficult to drive on and experiences closures in wet weather, cutting off the communities it services.

Sealing Tanami Road will provide improved and safer access to remote Aboriginal communities and mine sites, as well as provide an alternative sealed route into northern WA from the eastern states.

Main Roads are developing a delivery strategy for consideration by government to progressively upgrade the road over the next 5 - 10 years, providing sustainable employment outcomes.

What's happening

Activities completed to date include:

- Ground surveys for the full 313 km length
- Preliminary road design for first 114 km
- Investigation of proposed material areas and water bores sites for first 60 km
- Environmental Surveys for the first 60 km
- Heritage surveys with Koongie-Elvire and Jaru Traditional Owners for first 60 km, and alignment up to 114 km
- The final road design of the first 60 km is now in progress and will be ready by the end of the year.

Preparing to start in 2023

Once the environment and heritage approvals are in place, it is planned to commence preconstruction activities later this year, including installing new water bores, investigating material sources and stockpiling materials, in preparation for commencement of roadworks in 2023.

It is planned to commence construction work of the first 20 km at the northern end, working in a southerly direction towards the border each year.

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Industry Briefings

Main Roads held industry briefings in Broome, Derby, Kununurra and in Halls Creek, which were well attended by local contractors. These briefs are held yearly, although last year was the first time a session was held in Halls Creek and targeted at local Aboriginal businesses.



Stakeholder Engagement

Main Roads has been in consultation with key stakeholders to seek input into the project.

In June, Main Roads and the Shire of Halls Creek visited all three communities – Billiluna, Balgo and Mulan – to plan up-coming community consultations. Community Information sessions are planned for August 2022 to provide information on the project including business and employment opportunities.

Last year, Main Roads provided initial briefings to the three native title groups directly affected by the road – Jaru, Koongie-Elvire and Tjurabalan, who all indicated their support for the project.

We plan to form a Project Community and Stakeholder Reference Group to enable local people to have input into the project delivery strategy, as well as project scope, objectives and programming.

Aboriginal Participation

Governments at all levels are committed to maximising Aboriginal involvement in the delivery of this project and participation targets will be set in-line with other projects being delivered in the Kimberley Region.

It is planned to also form a Working Group, with representatives from employment and training organisations, to promote Aboriginal engagement in project delivery and assist Main Roads in achieving Aboriginal participation targets.

Several meetings have been held with East Kimberley Aboriginal training and employment organisations to identify opportunities to grow Aboriginal engagement in the delivery of East Kimberley Road and bridge projects.

