



Tanami Road Upgrade Project Great Northern Highway to WA Border



The \$542.8 million Tanami Road Project is progressing well with high local business content and Aboriginal participation.

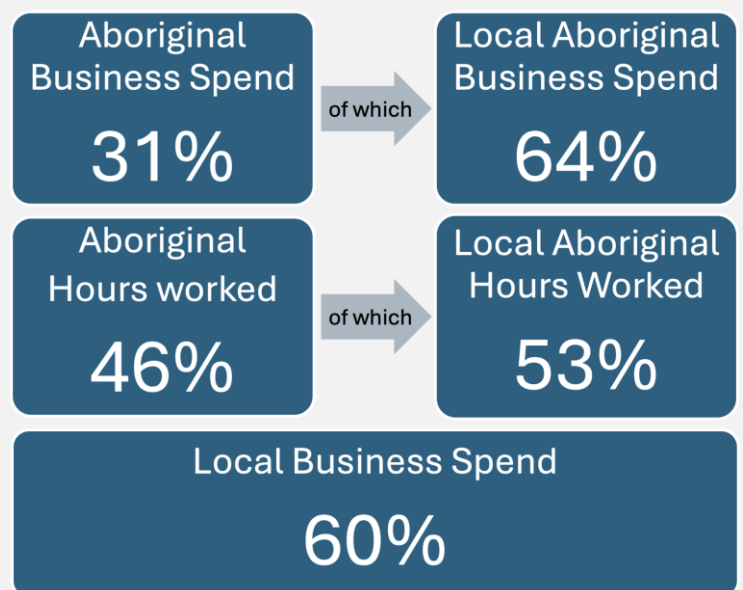
Almost 25 kilometres of Tanami Road is now sealed and open to traffic. Steady progress has been made throughout 2024 by the construction team, comprising mainly local Kimberley contractors (80%) and Aboriginal people (46%).

Construction by Locals

Main Roads' Project Manager Neville Walters praised the construction team's achievements this year through difficult terrain, requiring large earthworks and the installation of many culverts. The project's progress over the last two years demonstrates the capacity and capabilities of the Kimberley Region.

"I am really proud of what this team has achieved to date, and how our local work force and businesses have embraced this challenging project" Neville said.

Exceeding Aboriginal Targets



Large Culvert Installed at Six Mile Creek



A large culvert has been installed at Six Mile Creek, which is the first significant waterway to be crossed, 28 km south of Great Northern Highway. While a small bridge was initially considered, a large reinforced concrete box structure was selected to reduce costs and maximise local content. Work on the \$2 million structure commenced in early August, with construction of the trench and base slab, followed by installation of 154 reinforced concrete boxes, each weighing 4.5 tonne, along with final concrete and end treatments. The installation was completed by a local Jaru business who employed several experienced tradesmen, supported by local Aboriginal workers and overseen by Main Roads.

Works completed to date

Stage 1 – Hills Section (SLK0 to SLK40)

- 24.6 kms of sealed road.
- Vegetation clearing and topsoil stripping to SLK36.
- 33 kms of embankment earthworks.
- Commenced extraction and stock piling of rock at a new quarry at SLK34.
- Constructed and sealed an Information Bay and Heavy Vehicle Rest Area near Great Northern Highway.
- 3 km fence installed near Ruby Plains Homestead.
- Installed 65 out of 85 various box and pipe culverts.
- Line marking and guideposts installed for the first 24 kms of road.

2025 Planned Works

Stage 1 – Hills Section (SLK0 to SLK 40)

- Complete construction and sealing of 16 kms.
- Rehabilitation of side tracks and borrow pits.
- Continue to extract, crush and screen material from the quarry.
- Complete fencing.

2025 Planned Works - Stage 2 Ruby Plains Section (SLK40 to SLK72)

- Establish water dams and borrow pits.
- Establish a gravel pit at SLK75.
- Clear road alignment and construct side tracks.
- Commence earthworks and drainage, and construction of pavements and sealing.

NAIDOC Acknowledged



The project team continues to recognise and show respect to the Jaru people whose traditional lands the project and workers camp is located.

In July, Stuart Morten, Jaru Elders and other Jaru men led a smoking ceremony (pictured above) which welcomed the crew and project team, including Main Roads' executive. Jaru man Peter Brady then entertained the work crew over lunch, singing with his guitar.

Tanami Project Logo



A painting representing Wolfe Creek Meteor Crater, by local Jaru artist Diane Sambo (pictured with her painting), was selected as the project logo because of its connection with the Tanami Road.

The painting tells the story of the biggest hot stone falling to earth as told to Diane by her mother. The painting is displayed in the project office and on shirts proudly worn by the project team and crew.

Positive Federal Safety Commission Audit

During October, the project was audited by a Federal Safety Officer to confirm that the project team is implementing Work Health and Safety systems and processes required by the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner.

The project successfully passed the audit with only four minor non-conformances being noted.

Tjurabalan Workers on Project

Main Roads is continuing its commitment to job placement training and up-skilling of people from remote communities to work on the project crews. Rob Christophers, trainer and assessor, provides tailored on-site training and instruction to new inexperienced workers.

Eight men from the remote Tjurabalan communities of Balgo and Bililuna attended a two-day on-site orientation in August, to become familiar with the worksite ahead of been offered work.



L-R: Gilbert Cox, Winston Manson, Steven Delacy, Ainsley Mudgebell, Dean Brown, Nick Glover, Dennis Duinker, Keith Njamme, Donald Lynch, Trevor Mudji, Darren Mudgebell, Rob Christophers, Brian Darkie (August 2024).

Winston Manson, Ainsley Mudgebell and Trevor Mudji were offered work as labourers, traffic controllers and/or roller operators with all three men keen to return to site next year.

The ABC joined the orientation program to report on the work opportunities for Balgo residents on the Project and a local Aboriginal business - [Watch video](#) | [Hear radio](#) | [Read article](#).

2024/25 Wet Season Arrangements

Construction work pause over the wet season with the Shire of Halls Creek responsible for any road closures and on-going maintenance work beyond Ruby Plains Homestead during this time. Please contact the Shire on (08) 9168 6007 or visit their website to find out more.

Further Information

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