



Tanami Road Upgrade Great Northern Highway to WA Border



Overview

The Australian Government, the WA Government and the NT Government are committed to sealing Tanami Road between Halls Creek and Alice Springs.

In the NT, the road between Alice Springs and Yuendumu has been sealed and further funding has been allocated to seal further sections of road in WA and the NT.

Background

Tanami road is 1,035 kms long and links Alice Springs, in the Northern Territory, to Great Northern Highway (GNH), near Halls Creek in WA.

In addition to being an intrastate route, it provides access to several remote

Aboriginal communities, mine sites and tourist attractions.

While much of the road is formed and gravel sheeted, the road becomes corrugated and difficult to travel on throughout the year. It is also susceptible to road closures and flood damage during the wet season and has required extensive repairs in most years.

Project Scope

It is planned to progressively upgrade and seal Tanami Road road to a safe standard; improve drainage including installation of culverts and floodways, and eventually construct bridges; and to provide roadside facilities such as rest areas.

Why is the project needed?

Project benefits include:

- improving serviceability by reducing road closures during the wet season.
- improving road safety by reducing risk of crashes; and
- improving transport efficiency and reliability by providing quicker trips with fewer breakdowns.

Community Consultation

A Project Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed. It is proposed that the Plan will include:

- appointment of a local Community Liaison Officer

- consultation with communities
- formation of a Community and Stakeholder Reference Group
- formation of Working Group to maximise Aboriginal participation in the Project, with representatives from government agencies, key Aboriginal organisations, employment and training organisations.

Future Road Management

Responsibility for the road is currently under the care and control of the Shire of Halls Creek. The future management of the road is to be determined in consultation with the Shire.

How will Environmental and Aboriginal Heritage issues be managed?

Heritage Protection Agreements (HPA) will be entered into with the respective Native Title groups to minimise risk to Aboriginal heritage. Work cannot proceed without the consent of the Traditional owners.

Environmental surveys of the road corridor will be undertaken, and Environmental Impact Assessments prepared. To manage and minimise project impacts, Environmental Management Plans will be prepared and implemented.

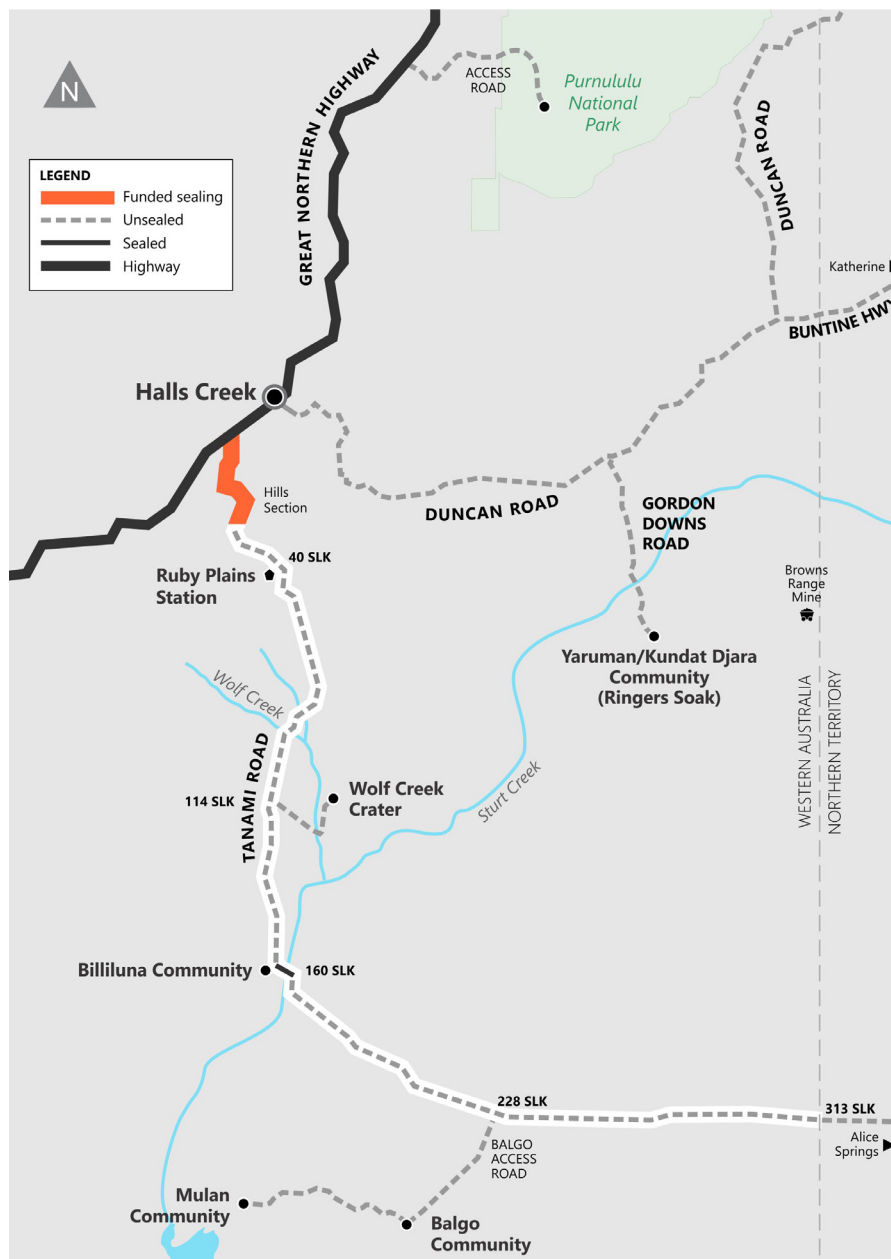
Environmental approvals and/or clearing permits will be obtained prior to work commencing.

Project timelines and costs

Australian Government and State Government funding of \$42.75 million is currently committed Stakeholder Engagement

A Delivery Strategy will be developed with key stakeholders including the Shire of Halls Creek, Native Title Groups, Kimberley Land Council, pastoralists, freight companies, and Aboriginal communities.

Future upgrade works on other sections of the road are subject to additional funding becoming available. It is expected to be a long-term project that may take up to 10 years for construction to be complete, with the total cost to seal the WA section of Tanami Road expected to be over \$500 million.



Further information

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