

Barkly Highway repairs finished

Thursday, 5 March 2009

Dispatched at 3.24pm CST

Repairs to the Barkly Highway - damaged when floodwaters from the Ranken River sluiced away 70 metres of the road on 5 January 2009 - have now been completed.

The final stages involved rebuilding the gravel road surface and applying a new bitumen coating to 27,500 square metres of the dual lane highway. Repairs have also been made to damaged road shoulders and embankments.

Damage to the highway prompted an immediate mobilisation of equipment and materials by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, including the stockpiling of gravel and 2300 tonnes of rock near the breach.

By 21 January, light vehicles – those less than 4.5 tonnes - were allowed across the construction site in a one-way alternation of direction during daylight hours. Roadtrains were allowed to cross on 29 January under a stringent weight restriction. The highway was opened to normal operations on 5 February 2009.

The Department's Tennant Creek-based Regional Manager, John Bertram, said reinstatement of the flood damaged sections were undertaken under very difficult conditions.

"Credit must go the contractors who immediately responded to assist with the repairs, working around the clock to reopen the highway as quickly as possible to a safe condition," he said.

Motorists should still exercise caution as line marking and guide post installations have not been completed.

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