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1800 246 199

Update on Barkly Highway

Friday, 9 January 2009

Dispatched at 4.20pm CST

General

The Barkly Highway remains closed to all traffic from the Tablelands Highway intersection in the Northern Territory across to the Queensland border.

Earthworks crews are at the site and have set up camp, and are preparing the area for stockpiling of materials and commencement of repair works. Due to the levels of water still in the area, smaller equipment will be used initially for repairs as larger equipment is unable to be turned around on the roadway in present conditions.

Should the water level remain high, this crew will begin filling in the batters on the western side of the breach.

Three Thousand tonnes of rock will be carted from Tennant Creek to form a foundation base for the 100 metre breach which was washed away.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure advises that repair works will take up to two weeks in present conditions. Daily updates will be provided to the media on the progress of works.

Motorists are being urged to refer to the Road Report website before travelling on the Barkly, and across all roads in the Territory, to receive up to date road condition information on all Government controlled roads including graphical representations of restrictions on regional maps.

Visit www.roadreport.nt.gov.au for the latest information on Territory roads or call 1800 246 199

Additional Information

Works will include reconstruction of road shoulders and batters and repairing the major breach across the highway which is approximately 100 metres long, and located 400 metres west of Soudan Station (326.80km from the Stuart Highway).

Once filled it is expected the highway will initially re-open to light traffic, with a single lane and daylight travel only until more significant repairs can be completed.

The current estimate is over 2 kilometres of damage to the shoulders, batters and road embankment at a number of locations with the main ones being at the breach, Rankine River, Six Mile Creek and the James River.

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www.racq.com.au/travel/trip_planner/road_conditions (Queensland)