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1800 246 199

Update on Barkly Highway

Monday, 12 January 2009

Dispatched at 4.30pm CST

General

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

Earthworks crews have set up camp at the site and repair work is now well underway. Rock fill is being brought in from Tennant Creek to the area and stockpiles have been established 7 km from the site on high and firm ground.

A working platform has been established at the breach, and placement of rock into the breach is continuing, with approximately 10 meters already placed over the weekend. It is now estimated that the breach is 70 metres long.

Water continues to flow rapidly through the breach and is at approximately 1.5 metres high. This water level has been rising and falling depending on rainfall in the catchment areas.

Work has also started on the western side of the breach for repairs to the embankment and shoulders using gravel which is being excavated from local sources.

The contractor is mobilising more plant and equipment to be able to operate on a 24-hour service.

Main Roads Queensland staff have provided a preliminary inspection report to the Eastern side of the breach and have indicated that approximately 2 km of damage to the shoulders and embankment have occurred. There is also indication of damage to the approaches to Ranken River and James River bridges, however a more detailed and thorough inspection will occur when floodwaters recede.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure estimates that the road will be open to light traffic in approximately 7 – 10 days dependent on weather.

Based on current information available, the department estimates that the repair bill will be around the \$2 million mark.

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.

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