Bridges Named In Honour of Well Respected Territorians

Construction Minister Gerry McCarthy today announced the bridges forming part of the Tiger Brennan Drive extension will be named in honour of three widely respected and remarkable Territorians.

The Tiger Brennan Drive extension is an iconic project delivering legacy infrastructure for Territorians to improve travel times between Darwin, Palmerston and the rural area.

The project included the construction of three significant bridges; two for vehicular traffic north and southbound traffic across the extended Tiger Brennan Drive and a new pedestrian and cycle bridge.

“It is fitting that the bridges that form this project are named after remarkable Territorians to acknowledge their individual contributions to the transport and engineering sectors and the Larrakia people,” Mr McCarthy said.

The northbound bridge will be named in honour of respected engineer Ron Beekman, a senior Macmahon employee who worked on the Tiger Brennan project until his recent death.

“Ron Beekman played a key role in the design and construction of the Tiger Brennan extension – the largest single road project in the Territory’s history,” Mr McCarthy said.

“He was highly regarded for his contribution to the construction industry across many major projects around the Territory over the past 30 years and his commitment to developing young engineers.”

The cycle and pedestrian bridge will be named the Midpul Bridge in honour of Larrakia artist Prince of Wales, who was born with the tribal name Midpul.

“Prince of Wales was the first contemporary Aboriginal artist from the Larrakia region to become well known and respected in the art industry,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Midpul won the 2001 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award in the general painting category and his record sale was $156,000 paid for a 146cm x 205cm canvass called Body Marks 2001.”

Mr McCarthy announced last month that the first bridge will be named in honour of Graham Ross, who together with his brother established North Australian Haulage in the 1930s.

“It is very fitting that a true pioneer of the Territory trucking industry, Graham Ross, is acknowledged by having the southbound bridge named in his honour,” Mr McCarthy said.

Tiger Brennan Drive extension is the first Early Contractor Involvement contract in the Territory.
Macmahon is delivering the project in partnership with the Larrakia Development Corporation and SKM, on behalf of the Northern Territory and Australian Governments.

The project will reduce traffic congestion for more than 34,000 vehicles per day and improve access to the East Arm Port.

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