Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says the duplication of Howard Springs Road to relieve traffic congestion has started today.

The contractor, Allan King, has started mulching trees to clear the new road and the new access to the Howard Springs Transfer Station and AAAA Road.

Gerry says that this is the start of the $8.5 million contract that Gerry has lobbied for over the last two years.

He says that the Stuart Highway/Howard Springs intersection will also be upgraded to 6 lanes to allow better movement of trucks across the intersection.

Most of the present traffic problems are not associated with the new prison or the accommodation village but with traffic going to and from the expanding Good Shepherd Lutheran college as well as local trucking companies carting sand and gravel to other projects around Darwin.