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Election Fork In The Road

The future of the Northern Territory’s road network hangs on the result of next Saturday’s election.

Following Friday’s announcement by Labor of another $160 million for Territory roads, Minister for Transport Delia Lawrie, today pointed out the stark difference between Labor and the Coalition’s road funding commitments to the Northern Territory.

“During this campaign, Labor has announced $386 million of road funding for the Northern Territory. The Coalition has announced only $375,000,” Ms Lawrie said.

“That is one thousand times more roads funding announced by Labor.

“Nowhere is the difference more clear than on Tiger Brennan Drive. Labor has announced $74 million for the project, including a flyover at the Stuart Highway. The Coalition has refused to announce any extra funding for this project during the campaign and has ruled out a flyover.

“The economic and social future of the Northern Territory requires an improved road network.

“14 per cent of Australia’s Auslink road network is in the Northern Territory - yet under John Howard we only get 2 per cent of the funding.

“The growth of our mining, agriculture and tourism industries is dependent on better roads. And our remote communities will continue to suffer disadvantage while they do not have adequate access roads.

“Labor’s comprehensive announcements cover the whole of the Territory. They include urban arterials, bush roads and our important Highways.

“Only Kevin Rudd and Labor realise that with only 23% the Territory’s road network sealed a large funding injection is urgently required,” said Ms Lawrie.

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