Growing the Territory: $10M for Port Keats Road

Work on the first stages of the $23 million Port Keats and Daly River crossing upgrades will begin this dry season with the Henderson Government providing $10 million in Budget 2010, supporting 30 jobs.

Construction Minister Gerry McCarthy said the Territory Government is delivering on significant upgrades to the Moyle River Floodplain and Tom Turner Crossing and construction of the new Daly River bridge.

“Work will start on the $10 million Moyle River Floodplain and Tom Turner Crossing upgrades from this dry season,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Hydrology and soil survey work has been done to identify the best alignment for the Daly River Bridge with recommended options to be released for public comment later this year. Construction will start in the 2011-12 financial year.

“This major package delivers on an election commitment and is the largest investment ever in the region to improve access for the Daly River region, Wadeye, Palumpa and Peppimenarti.

“Port Keats Road is the only main road to the remote communities of Wadeye, Palumpa and Peppimenarti and better access is important for remote Territorians to have improved access to health, education and economic opportunities.

“Together with funding from the Commonwealth which is contributing $11 million to the total project, the Territory Government is committed to substantially improving access for communities along the Port Keats Road.”

Business and Employment Minister Rob Knight said these upgrades will improve access for the fishing, tourism and pastoral sectors and boost the Territory’s export trade.

“The Bonaparte gas project has also increased traffic on the Port Keats Roads and improving the roads accessibility will help with future natural resources exploration and development,” Mr Knight said.

“The Territory Government is delivering now for families and investing in Growing the Territory.”

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