One of the three new bridges forming part of the Tiger Brennan Drive extension will be named in honour of Territory road transport industry pioneer Graham Ross.

Transport Minister Gerry McCarthy made the announcement at last night’s NT Road Transport Association annual dinner in Darwin.

“The Tiger Brennan Drive extension will reduce congestion and improve safety on our roads and these bridges will become a transport icon for Territorians travelling between Darwin, Palmerston and the rural area,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Improving efficiency and access to the Port for our trucking industry was instrumental in securing the necessary funds from the Australian Government to complete the project.

“It is very fitting that a true pioneer of the Territory trucking industry, Graham Ross, is acknowledged by having the north bound bridge named in his honour.

“The NT Road Transport Association put forward Graham Ross’s name and it’s easy to see why when you go through his outstanding contribution to the Territory.

“Graham Ross came to Darwin in 1938 from Queensland with one Ford truck and a shovel and would eventually make a great contribution to the growth of the Territory.

“During World War II Graham and his truck were commandeered by the Army to do work for the Civil Defence running supplies from Darwin to the Army base at Adelaide River.

“Graham left Darwin for Sydney in 1945 and returned in 1954 with his family.

“He initially went into business with his brother, Arthur, as Ross Brothers and then started up North Australian Haulage in 1956, which would become the largest privately owned transport company in the Northern Territory with more than 100 registered vehicles.

“The company was heavily involved with the clean up and reconstruction effort in Darwin after Cyclone Tracy. Graham Ross died on Australia Day, 1989, and his son David continued to run the business until the company was wound up in the early 1990s.”

Mr McCarthy said the names of the two other bridges within the Tiger Brennan Drive extension would be revealed later this year.

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