The Territory Government is calling for tenders to deliver flood damage repairs and upgrades to two vital roads in Central Australia.

Construction Minister Gerry McCarthy said the works will improve safety and flood immunity at the Finke River causeway crossing on Larapinta Drive, and Namattjira Drive.

“The tender period for this project closes in six weeks with the 20 week project set to begin in February 2011,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Budget 2010 invests a record $331 million towards new roads and vital road upgrades and repairs throughout the Territory,” Mr McCarthy said.

“This includes a $32 million package for central region roads to improve transport between remote communities to help residents access vital services, jobs and education opportunities.

“These roads also support the Territory’s tourism, mining and pastoral industries and that’s why we are calling for tenders to improve flood immunity on these roads.

Mr McCarthy said the Territory’s roads budget is up 237% since 2001 and includes $46 million to upgrade roads associated with the Territory’s 20 growth towns.

“I would like to acknowledge the support of the Australian Government and the increase in funding we have received with a Federal Labor Government in office,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Under the Nation Building Program, funding has more than doubled to $425 million over five years – an investment in the Territory delivered by Labor Governments working together.”