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TENDERS CALLED TO BUILD NEW DALY RIVER BRIDGE

Tenders have been called to build a new high level bridge over the Daly River to improve year round access to local communities.

Construction Minister Gerry McCarthy said the new bridge would deliver greater health, education and job opportunities to more than 3000 people in the region.

“The new Daly River Bridge will be another symbol of this Government’s efforts to build the Territory to meet today’s challenges and capitalise on future opportunities,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Hydrology and soil survey work to identify the best alignment for the new bridge were undertaken last year and construction of the new bridge is set to begin in August 2011.”

Construction of the bridge is part of a $23 million roads project in the region that is being jointly funded by the Federal and Territory governments as part of the Community, Beef and Mining Roads Package in the Northern Territory.

Member for Lingiari, Warren Snowdon, said the new bridge will be an important infrastructure asset for communities in the Daly region.

“The new bridge is set to span 184 metres and the project includes infrastructure to widen the bridge to two lanes in the future,” Mr Snowdon said.

“The project also includes about two kilometres of new road embankment connecting the bridge to the existing Daly River Road and Port Keats Road.”

Business Minister Rob Knight said construction of the new bridge would support about 120 jobs and replace the existing crossing upstream which is often prone to wet season flooding.

“This new bridge delivers on an election commitment and is part of the largest ever investment in the region to improve access for the Daly River region, Wadeye, Palumpa and Peppimenarti,” Mr Knight said.
“This new bridge will also improve access for the fishing, tourism and pastoral sectors and boost the Territory’s export trade.

“The existing crossing floods about 114 days a year and the new bridge is not expected to flood more than five days each year.

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

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