Minister for Infrastructure Adam Giles today announced the awarding of an $18.8 million contract for the construction of a bridge and roadwork for the Goyder River to Territory-based company Norbuilt Pty Ltd.

Mr Adam Giles said the Arnhem Land project has been developed following extensive stakeholder negotiations and assistance from traditional owners.

“The works will improve access for the Indigenous communities along the Central Arnhem Road and improve access for transport operators who service the regional centre of Nhulunbuy and the major remote town of Gapuwiyak,” Mr Giles said.

The project, which is fully funded by the Australian Government, will include construction of a 14.4 kilometre long gravel road including three new single lane bridges to cross the Goyder River floodplain.

Mr Giles said the works will reduce the average wet season road closures at the crossings from four months to one or two weeks.

“Fifty people will be employed during construction, including five apprentices and eight Indigenous workers, who will receive on the job training towards attaining certificate level qualifications,” Mr Giles said.

Works are expected to start in November and be completed by February 2014.

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