Improvements in sight for NT regional and remote roads

CONSTRUCTION will commence as early as August this year on two regional and remote roads in the Northern Territory.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss today visited Santa Teresa Road, one of the six sites to be upgraded through a $106 million commitment by the Australian Government and Northern Territory Government.

Mr Truss was joined on-site by Northern Territory Chief Minister Adam Giles, as well as Northern Territory Minister for Transport Peter Styles.

“The Regional Roads Package will upgrade six roads that are crucial to unlocking the economic potential of the Territory’s remote areas and building Northern Australia” Mr Truss said.

“Two of the sites, Santa Teresa Road and Port Keats Road, will be ready for construction as early as August, and the Buntine Highway will follow with a contract to be awarded in September.

“We have fast-tracked $3.55 million, available immediately, for the planning and design works on the six roads as priority.”

Mr Giles was excited that work would start on half the sites this year, with the Central Arnhem Road, Arnhem Link Road and Roper Highway expected to start construction in mid-2015.

“IT is a major package totalling $106 million, with the Australian Government contributing $90 million and the Northern Territory Government $16 million,” Mr Giles said.

“Our two governments are working together and getting on with the job of delivering the infrastructure that the Northern Territory deserves.

“The development of Northern Australia needs a commitment to building better transport links and this is a great start.”

Mr Styles said it was vital that priority roads in the Territory’s network were upgraded, maintained and made safe for all motorists.

“Improving these six roads will facilitate economic development and job creation opportunities in regional and remote parts of the Territory,’ Mr Styles said.
“It will improve road safety and access to Indigenous communities and potentially support the expansion of tourism, mining, and agriculture in our regions.
“This is fantastic news for the Northern Territory economy.”

The roads to be upgraded are the Roper Highway, the Buntine Highway, Port Keats Road, Arnhem Link Road, Central Arnhem Road and Santa Teresa Road.

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