Tenders have been called for the $4.8 million project to duplicate the Stuart Highway from Noonamah to the Cox Peninsula Road.

Transport and Infrastructure Minister Dr Chris Burns said the project is being managed by the Northern Territory’s Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment. The Stuart Highway is part of the AusLink National Network and is funded by the Federal Government.

“The project will double the number of lanes on this stretch of the Stuart Highway, making it safer and more convenient for everyone who uses it,” Dr Burns said.

“The work will provide jobs for Territorians, while protecting the heritage-listed World War II Strauss airstrip.

“As part of our long-term plans, the project allows for the eventual construction of an information centre, and for local road networks to be established when further land development takes place.

“The NT Government has liaised extensively with residents along the Stuart Highway, where the duplication will take place.”

The tender closes on 6 November 2004. The project involves:

- Constructing two additional lanes for a distance of 6km, creating two north-bound and two south-bound lanes. The work will be done on the western side of the highway, except near the Strauss airstrip where it will be on the opposite side. The water mains near the airstrip will be lowered to enable the works to leave the airstrip untouched.
- Providing a formal intersection at the southern entry/exit to the Noonamah roadhouse, and a separate entry and exit at the northern approach. Highway lighting will be installed in this area.
- Upgrading the intersections of Elizabeth Valley Road, Keleson Road and Cox Peninsula Road. The Elizabeth Valley Road and Cox Peninsula Road intersections will also receive highway lighting.

The work on lowering the water mains is expected to start in December 2004. Roadworks will start at the beginning of the 2005 Dry season and should last four to five months.

Disruption to road users should be minimised with most of the roadworks occurring adjacent to the existing highway.