AN urgent upgrade is needed at a troublesome Coolalinga intersection before new developments attract more traffic to the area, says Independent Member for Nelson Gerry Wood.

Mr Wood said the new Coles/Kmart shopping centre was due for completion in mid-2017, and improvements to the Stuart Hwy intersection were essential before the centre opened.

He said the crossing at the United petrol station was unsafe and had concerned motorists for a long time, and an upgrade should be a priority for the NT Government.

According to Mr Wood, the government had drawn plans for a new intersection, but there did not appear to be any plans to follow up.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Infrastructure could not provide a date that work in the area would begin.

"The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics is currently liaising with key stakeholders and adjacent landholders prior to finalising interim safety works at this intersection, which will be undertaken in the new year," she said. "Further consultation will be undertaken in 2017 about additional works for the Coolalinga stretch of the Stuart Hwy."

The spokeswoman was unable to provide statistics about the number of car crashes and vehicle incidents at the site.

Calls for urgent upgrade

LAUREN ROBERTS

"Further consultation will be undertaken in 2017 about additional works for the Coolalinga stretch of the Stuart Hwy."

A recent accident at the Coolalinga intersection (pictured inset) where Independent Member for Nelson Gerry Wood is calling for an urgent upgrade.

Singing student praises

AROUND 400 students from across Australia have auditioned to earn a place in the Gondwana National Choral School. And for seven talented young Territorians, 2017 is their time to shine.

The students will travel to Sydney in January to attend an intensive two-week season at the University of NSW. Together they will create and present work under the guidance of world-class artists culminating in a series of concerts showcasing their talents.

All seven students from the Territory are in the NT Music School’s Singchronicity choir. Emma Lester and Ellis Evans, both year six students at Bees Creek Primary, said they were excited for the opportunity. School principal Shona Henderson sung the girls’ praises.

“This is a fantastic achievement for both Emma and Ellis and one that the Bees Creek community are extremely proud of,” she said.

The students selected were Alyssa Bradshaw and Melati Wheeler from Good Shepherd Lutheran College, Ellis Evans and Emma Lester from Bees Creek, Isaac Smally from Nightcliff Middle, Kida Langham from Taminmin College and Max Higgins from Darwin Middle School.

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