25 May 2010

Tanami Reaches Milestone

Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton today announced the completion of an upgrade to 14km of the Tanami Highway, north-west of Alice Springs.

“More than 40 road crew, including 12 local Indigenous community members, have worked on this $8 million dollar project to improve flood immunity in the area,” said Mr Hampton.

The works include raising several kilometres of pavement and improving drainage. 195kms of the Northern Territory portion of the famous highway is now sealed, with a further 4km upgrade already underway.

Mr Hampton said he was pleased with the results so far.

“Previously, the stretch of road could remain closed for several weeks during wet periods. As a result, local and provincial traffic – including tourists, the mining sector and freight transport companies – suffered major inconvenience.

“The Tanami is a crucial highway for many communities in the centre; I travel this road often and can assure motorists they will definitely notice the difference.”

The Northern Territory Government recently announced a further $2 million investment toward the progressive sealing of the Tanami Highway in the 2010 budget.

“Good transport is integral to building strong communities, and the NT Government is committed to upgrading roads in the bush,” said Mr Hampton.

The current works will be complete in July, weather permitting.

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