Peter Chandler
Minister for Transport

Bridge renewal program to make life safer for Territorians

15 May 2015

The Country Liberals Government today confirmed that the Tablelands Highway will receive $12.5 million for the Bridge Renewal Program, making life simpler and safer for Territorians.

Minister for Transport Peter Chandler said the government is working in partnership with the Australian Government to enhance this important transport link for Northern Australia.

“The Bridges Renewal Program will strengthen six of the 11 bridges on the Tablelands Highway between the Barkly Highway and the Barkly Stock Route,” Mr Chandler said.

“It includes Playford River, Boree Creek, Whitehole Creek, Brunette Creek South, Brunette Creek North and Creswell Creek.

“Increasing the strength of the six bridges will enable permanent load restrictions to be removed improving key freight network opportunities and productivity.”

Tablelands Highway connects the Barkly Highway and Carpentaria Highway and is a vital rural arterial road that provides services to the cattle industry, pastoralists, communities and tourists.

“The Tablelands Highway supports a significant number of cattle movements in the Northern Territory with 100,000 plus heads of cattle moving every year,” Mr Chandler said.

“The Transport Network Strategic Investment Tool (TRANSIT) has identified the Tablelands Highway as being an important link for the cattle industry in Northern Australia.

“The TRANSIT study investigated where potential savings could be made in the transport of cattle from farms to feedlots, abattoirs and ports.”

Construction is proposed to start in early 2016 with completion due the same year.

“Once complete, we will see improvements in road safety with heavy vehicle driver fatigue reducing the hours required to travel,” Mr Chandler said.

“We will also see improved access to remote Indigenous communities and increase productivity for transport of freight and cattle.”
Both the Northern Territory and Australian Government have contributed $6.25 million towards the Bridge Renewal Program.

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