Transport and Infrastructure Minister Dr Chris Burns has confirmed that contracts valued at more than $700,000 have been awarded for upgrades to the Roper Highway.

“Contracts have been awarded to Allan King and Sons Pty Ltd to resheet two sections of the Roper Highway,” Dr Burns said.

“The latest contract is valued at $509,000. This provides for resheeting 30km of the road, from Roper Bar to Ngukurr. These works are now in progress and are expected to be completed by early December.

“The first contract awarded to Alan King and Sons was for a 9km section of the road from the end of the existing bitumen towards Roper Bar. These works were completed in early November.

“The works will benefit the pastoral industry in the region, the communities of Numbulwar and Ngukurr and both tourists and Territorians who access the Roper River and Nathan River regions for fishing and tourism.”

The Roper Highway and the Nathan River Road comprise segments of the Savannah Way that connects Cairns and Broome.

“These works are part of the Martin Government’s commitment to increase funding for regional and beef roads in this year’s Territory Budget,” Dr Burns said.

“Territory roads in unincorporated (non-Council) areas have been underfunded by the Commonwealth by $20 million dollars over the past four years.

“The Commonwealth’s funding formula has not treated Territorians equitably with residents of other States.

“The Northern Territory Legislative Assembly recently moved unanimously to have the Commonwealth restore this funding to the Territory, something the Martin Government will continue to argue strongly for.”

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