

# MEDIA STATEMENT

21 October 2020

## More Outback Way widening works completed

Works to widen a further five-kilometre section of the Outback Way between Winton and Boulia have been completed.

Transport and Main Roads Director-General Neil Scales said the \$4.825 million works on the Kennedy Developmental Road were part of the project to upgrade sections of the iconic 2800-kilometre link between Laverton in Western Australia and Winton.

"The Australian Government is investing \$330 million to upgrade the Outback Way through productivity and safety improvements such as widening and sealing works," Mr Scales said.

"It provides a continuous east-west link across a substantial section of central Australia and is well placed to support growth in agricultural and mining industries, as well as enhancing new tourism opportunities throughout inland Australia.

"In Queensland, \$26 million in upgrades are being progressively delivered to reduce travel times for all road users, decrease costs for freight operators and limit road closures."

Mr Scales said the upgrades included five projects.

"The five projects are each in varying stages of delivery, with three of the projects completed so far," Mr Scales said.

"This includes sealing 18 kilometres between Boulia and Tobermorey, which was completed in May last year, and widening 17 kilometres between Winton and Boulia in April this year.

"Most recently, a further five kilometres was widened between Winton and Boulia with works completed in September.

"Work is currently underway on a \$10.48 million project to seal an additional 25 kilometres between Boulia and Tobermorey, with works scheduled for completion mid 2021.

"Works on the final project are due to start in November and include widening about two kilometres between Boulia and Dajarra, to be completed by the end of this year."

Mr Scales said with the completion of all five projects, more than 90 per cent of the Outback Way in Queensland would then be sealed.

"Each of the projects have and will continue to support jobs and create stability," he said.

Boulia Shire Council Mayor Rick Britton said upgrading the Outback Way strengthened the connection between rural communities.

"The upgrades link our communities with essential services and facilities and, greatly contribute to further improving social interaction, all the while sustaining the liveability of Outback Queensland," Cr Britton said.

"The ongoing improvement of the Outback Way is exciting for everyone in western Queensland and for all those who live and work on the network, whether it be to drive their productivity or experience unique tourism opportunities."

### **Outback Way projects**

#### **Progressive Sealing – Package 1 (Donohue Highway, Boulia – Tobermorey)**

- \$6.25 million project delivered progressive pave and seal works to about 18 kilometres of the Donohue Highway (a local government road which forms part of the Outback Way), between Boulia and Tobermorey.
- Work started March 2018 and was completed in May 2019.
- An average of 13 direct jobs were supported over the life of the project.

#### **Progressive Sealing – Package 2 (Donohue Highway, Boulia – Tobermorey)**

- \$10.48 million project continuing progressive pave and seal 25 kilometres across four sections of the Donohue Highway, between Boulia and Tobermorey.
- Work started in July 2019 is expected to be completed mid 2021.
- An average of 15 direct jobs will be supported over the life of the project.

#### **Widening – Package 1 (Kennedy Developmental Road, Winton – Boulia)**

- \$3.875 million project widened more than 17 kilometres of the Kennedy Developmental Road (which forms part of the Outback Way), between Winton and Boulia.
- Construction started in June 2019 and was completed in April 2020.
- An average of 13 direct jobs were supported over the life of the project.

#### **Widening – Package 2 (Kennedy Developmental Road, Winton – Boulia)**

- \$4.825 million project widened up to five kilometres of the Kennedy Developmental Road between Winton and Boulia.
- Construction started in April 2020 and was completed in September 2020.
- An average of 16 direct jobs were supported over the life of the project.

#### **Widening – Diamantina Developmental Road (Boulia – Dajarra)**

- \$1.025 million project to widen about an additional two kilometres of the Diamantina Developmental Road between Boulia and Dajarra.
- Construction is expected to start in November 2020 with completion in December 2020.

The Australian Government is contributing more than \$21 million to deliver the five projects, with the Queensland Government committing about \$3.6 million and Boulia Shire Council about \$1.6 million.

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