



Australian Government

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**

# Buntine Highway Upgrade

## **Buntine Highway Upgrade**

**Project Cost:** \$125 million

**Estimated AG funding:** \$100 million

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Buntine Highway proposal involves upgrading priority sections of the Buntine Highway to deliver flood immunity, safety improvements and pavement strengthening and widening works along the route.

The Buntine Highway is a 558km long rural arterial road, connecting the Victoria Highway to Western Australia via Top Springs and Kalkarindji, of which the first 336km is sealed and the remaining 222km is predominantly unsealed.

#### **Related/complementary projects**

The Australian Government has previously committed over \$41 million under the Regional Roads Productivity Package and Northern Australia Roads Program to upgrade sections of the route. A further commitment to upgrade more of the Buntine Highway would build on these commitments and further improve access and connectivity in the North.

### **PROBLEM**

Many sections of the Buntine Highway suffer from corrugation and potholes, and can be susceptible to flooding and wash-outs, limiting mobility and access to the communities and mining and pastoral interests that are located along the road.

In addition, even when not impacted by weather events, significant sections of the road have heavy-vehicle access restrictions in place that further limit access to mining and pastoral interests located along the route. Sections of the route also have limited signage, which contribute to safety concerns.

### **BENEFITS**

#### **Improved Freight Efficiency, Connectivity and Travel Time**

- Improved travel times and operating costs along the corridor.
- Improved flood immunity along the corridor.
- Improved access to remote communities.

#### **Increased Safety**

- Provide safer overtaking opportunities.
- Reduce crash frequencies.
- Increase weight and height limit for heavy vehicles.

#### **Support Regional and Local Economic Development**

- Support inter-state connections between the Northern Territory and Western Australia.
- Support the growth of rural populations and the agricultural and mining industries.

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