



Media Release

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Concerns delays in Tanami Road sealing will impact on community resilience

The Kimberley Regional Group congratulates the State and Federal government on work to commence sealing the Western Australian section of Tanami Road but urges government to bring forward funding to deliver this critical project as a priority.

“It is terrific that the Australian and Western Australian governments have committed \$542.8 million to complete sealing of the 313-kilometre WA section of the road,” said Cr David Menzel, Chair of the Kimberley Regional Group. “However, we are concerned that this is scheduled to occur over the next ten years with the bulk of funding for works pushed out beyond 2025/26. This will significantly delay delivery of the project.”

“Sealing the Tanami is a priority for all four Kimberley Shires,” said Cr Malcom Edwards, President of the Shire of Halls Creek. “The Kimberley floods led to road closures between Broome and Derby, and the East and West Kimberley, showing how vulnerable our communities are with one sealed road connecting Kimberley towns with each other and to Perth.”

The Tanami Road is critical for supply chain resilience and reducing the impact of severe weather events across the Kimberley. A sealed road will be safer and more reliable for travellers. Also, it should lead to reduced freight costs and facilitate new employment and business growth in the region. “This project will provide significant employment and training opportunities for local communities, in particular for Aboriginal people and local businesses,” said Cr Menzel “There is no reason to delay project delivery.”

“Kimberley towns would not have run out of food, goods and services during this year’s catastrophic floods if the Tanami Road were sealed.” said Cr Edwards. “Sealing the road needs to be done as a priority so we have an alternative transport route into the region. We urge government not to delay delivery.”

About the Kimberley Regional Group

The Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) is an alliance of the four Shires of the Kimberley, being the Shire of Broome, the Shire of Derby West Kimberley, the Shire of Halls Creek and the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley. Our Vision is to maintain and enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley for its people and the world. Collaboratively the group seeks to drive positive impact across the region through improved social, economic and cultural outcomes.



Fast Facts

- The Tanami Road is 1,016 kilometres long and mostly unsealed.
- 300 kilometres of the 703-kilometre section of road in the Northern Territory has been sealed, with an additional 30 kilometres from Alice Springs due for completion mid-this year, and a further 90 kilometres due for completion during 2025.
- Funding to complete the sealing of the 313-kilometre WA section of the road has been pushed out in government budgets, which will lead to significant delays in project delivery.

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