

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Maley to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics:

Poor State of Roads to Oenpelli-Maningrida-Ramingining

The message coming from residents in Oenpelli-Maningrida-Ramingining is that roads to remote communities are in urgent need of upgrading, with the state of the roads causing damage to vehicles and risk of road accidents resulting in serious injury or loss of life.

Questions:

1. Why has the Labor Government neglected its responsibility to maintain and upgrade vital roads in these communities?

DIPPL manages an annual program to upgrade and maintain the road network across the Northern Territory. During 2020-21, \$589 000 was spent maintaining the Arnhem Link Road from the Arnhem Highway to Central Arnhem Road, including the access roads to Ramingining and Maningrida.

For the 2021-22 financial year, a total of \$1.75 million has been allocated for repairs and maintenance along this section of the road network. In addition, \$11.6 million in capital works have been allocated including:

- upgrade to four crossings (Tomkinson River, Cadell River and two minor waterways);
- upgrade and seal 3km at Red Lily Lagoon; and
- seal 1.2km of Maningrida-Ramingining Road.

2. When will these roads be upgraded?

The tender for the construction of the four crossings was advertised in September 2021. It is expected that the construction tender will be awarded by end of 2021, with works anticipated to commence at the beginning of the next dry season.

The works at Red Lily Lagoon are subject to final agreement on the gravel source with the Northern Land Council and Traditional Owners. It is anticipated that the construction tender will be released in 2022.

Sealing of the 1.2km of Maningrida-Ramingining Road is underway with works anticipated to be completed by December 2021, weather permitting.

Repairs and maintenance works will continue throughout 2021-22 in response to the highest priorities and ability to access work sites during the wet season.

3. Is the NT Government prioritising these roads for Australian Government funding?

The Arnhem Link Road capital works project is joint funded with the Australian Government. Priority projects for upgrade are regularly discussed with the Australian Government and reflected in budget announcements.