

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Hersey to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics:

Central Arnhem Highway

1. **Regarding the \$355 million that has been committed to the Central Arnhem Highway, please provide a breakdown of how and when these funds will be expended.**

The \$355 million funding is made up of:

- \$180 million from the Australian Government, as part of the 2019-20 Budget and an additional \$100 million from the 2023-24 Budget;
- co-contributions from the NT Government of \$45 million in 2019-20 and \$25 million in 2023-24; and
- a further \$5 million from the NT Government in 2018-19 to complete an early works package to seal the road near Bulman.

The remaining funding will be allocated to upgrade the following priority sections along the Central Arnhem Road between 2024 and 2029, to improve connectivity, flood immunity, safety, accessibility and economic development for the region.

Table 1:

Package	Length - kilometres
Mountain Valley Station – 158 - 176km	18
Stuart Highway to Barunga – 0 - 28km	28
Rusty Hole to Jurassic Lookout – 97 - 119km	22
Boggy Creek to Dhupuma – 544 - 645km	101
Waterhouse Creek – 56 - 60km	Bridge
Mainoru Station – 176 - 221km	45

The timeframe for progressing the above projects to construction is dependent on seeking statutory approvals from relevant authorities and seeking Project Proposal Report approval from the Australian Government for individual projects.

2. How much of the road will be sealed out of that \$355 million?

Priority projects planned for delivery under the \$355 million will include bridges at Waterhouse and Giddies, and sealing and upgrading of approximately 200 kilometres of the Central Arnhem Road.

The above scope is based on 2023 cost estimates and has the potential to be impacted due to increases in construction, material, labour costs, supply issues, and long lead time for obtaining statutory approvals.

3. Please detail the prioritised upgrades and when they will be completed.

Planning for upgrade works will see construction contracts awarded between 2024 and 2026, and is expected that these projects will be completed by 2029.

The prioritised projects include:

- Sealing of an 18 kilometre section near Mountain Valley Station, expected to be awarded in April 2024.
- Sealing a 28 kilometre section from the Stuart Highway to Barunga and a 22 kilometre section from Rusty's Hole to the Jurassic Park Lookout are expected to be completed in late 2026.
- Upgrade and sealing of a 45 kilometre section near Mainoru Station and a 101 kilometre section from Boggy Creek to Dhupuma Road will be undertaken between 2025 and 2029.

4. Is it the responsibility of the Territory Government or the Roper Gulf Shire and if a responsibility of both can you please provide details of the responsibilities of both?

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics manages and maintains this road under the *Control of Roads Act 1953*.