

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr. Higgins to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning, and Logistics:

Barneson Boulevard

1. When will a final decision on whether or not to go ahead with Barneson Boulevard be made?

The project cost of \$39.53 million for Barneson Boulevard and the Duplication of Tiger Brennan Drive from Dinah Beach Road to McMinn Street is fully funded by the Australian Government (\$29.53 million), NT Government (\$5 million) and City of Darwin (\$5 million).

The decision to go ahead has been made and the final concept design was released to the community on 19 July 2017. A 3D flythrough of how the road will look upon completion is available on the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics website <https://dipl.nt.gov.au/transport/transport-strategies-and-plans/major-projects/barneson-boulevard>.

2. Has the Department reviewed the proposal since the initial concept was developed in 1996?

Yes the Department has reviewed the proposal since the initial concept was developed in 1996.

A tunnel option was originally considered for Barneson Boulevard, however it was not feasible due to multiple drawbacks including:

- high cost exceeding \$80 million, as opposed to \$20 million for current proposed design (excluding Tiger Brennan Drive extension);
- high construction impact such as the excavation, treatment and disposal of a large quantity of acid sulphate and soils;
- large volume of undispersed traffic delivered to Cavenagh St, creating congestion and amenity issues; and
- lower accessibility and network connectivity, with inferior street level visibility making it undesirable for pedestrians.

3. How often has the need for Barneson Boulevard been reviewed?

The Department regularly monitors the Northern Territory Road network to improve safety and performance.

The need for Barneson Boulevard has been reviewed regularly since its initial planning more than 20 years ago.

The corridor to accommodate Barneson Boulevard was identified 20 years ago in the Central Darwin Planning Concepts and Development Opportunities (1996), and was subsequently preserved through a Proposed Main Road zoning. Services in the area have been future-proofed to facilitate it. This corridor was identified as the best route to meet future planning objectives, including to better disperse traffic entering and exiting Darwin CBD.

4. What alternatives to Barneson Boulevard were considered?

A previous planning study in 2014 by the then Department of Transport, examined options to construct a new realigned section of the Stuart Highway at Stuart Park. The results of the planning study showed that although it would assist in alleviating the currently congested section of the Stuart Highway through Stuart Park and increase capacity at the Stuart Highway/Daly Street/McMinn Street intersection, it would not relieve the Tiger Brennan Drive/Bennett Street/McMinn Street intersection. Traffic approaching the CBD would still be concentrated at the two entry points.

5. When do you expect construction on Barneson Boulevard will commence?

It is expected that construction on this project will commence later in 2017 and finish by end of 2019.

Construction will take place over two key stages:

- Stage 1 – Barneson Boulevard from Dinah Beach Road to Cavenagh Street; and
- Stage 2 – Divert all traffic on the completed Barneson Boulevard, and then duplicate Tiger Brennan Drive from Dinah Beach Road to McMinn Street intersection and the Cross Road, to link Barneson Boulevard and Tiger Brennan Drive.

The construction sequencing will help reduce the risk of working under traffic and the need for extensive traffic management.