

# Karratha Tom Price Road



Minister for Transport Rita Saffioti, Premier Mark McGowan and Kevin Michel MLA Karratha Tom Price sod turning ceremony in September 2019.

Jointly funded by the Australian and Western Australian governments, the upgrade of the Karratha Tom Price Road will improve **safety and efficiency** for all road users, creating **social and economic opportunities** for the local community and the broader Pilbara region.

The Australian (\$248m) and Western Australian (\$62m) governments have committed a total of \$310m for the completion of the Karratha Tom Price Road, Stages 3 and 4.

In September 2019, Premier Mark McGowan and Transport Minister Rita Saffioti visited Stage 3 of the Karratha Tom Price Road to [announce the start of the \\$81.5 million jointly-funded Australian and state government project](#).

Creating over 100 local jobs during construction, MACA Civil Pty Ltd, commenced works on the 48 kilometres section on 29 October 2019. The project includes the construction of new sealed pavement and associated drainage structures.

When complete the upgrades will reduce travel times, improve safety and reduce road closures, particularly during the wet season.

The upgrade to this section will improve access to the popular Millstream National Park, which sees high volumes of tourist traffic during the peak season.

The project has a strong focus on creating regional employment and opportunities for local businesses, including aboriginal companies.

### Impact to local and visitor traffic

With assistance from Rio Tinto, public traffic has been shifted to a parallel detour track during the construction period to ensure safety for the travelling public.

All traffic is detoured via the Rio Tinto Iron Ore Rail Maintenance Track for the duration of works.

To access the RTIO Rail Maintenance Track, an **Access Permit must be acquired**. You can obtain this via the Rio Tinto

website: [pilbararailaccessroad.riotinto.com](http://pilbararailaccessroad.riotinto.com) . **Please note, this permit must be obtained PRIOR to commencing your journey, permits cannot be granted when you reach the detour.**

The permit is valid for **one month**, and is at no cost to road users.

Access to Millstream Road is being maintained during construction under speed restrictions.

### Project Timeline

Construction of Stage 3 commenced on 29 October and will continue through to mid 2020.



### Safety first

The current detour onto the RTIO Access Track moves traffic onto an unsealed road. Main Roads encourages all road users to:

- Drive to the conditions specified on the RTIO permit.
- Drive within the speed limit and to the road conditions.
- It is advised to drive with your lights on.

### Asbestos

Prior to construction asbestos was discovered on the Roebourne Wittenoom Road. Historic carting of asbestos, some 40 years ago along this road from the Wittenoom asbestos mine to the port resulted in contamination from bags falling from trucks used to transport the product. Remediation works have been completed and an Asbestos Management Plan is in place for construction.

The current detour for the Stage 3 works was not used for asbestos carting and therefore road users should not encounter any asbestos during their journey on the detour.

### Benefits

Construction of the Karratha Tom Price Road will improve connectivity for local communities to the major town-sites of Karratha, Roebourne, Tom Price and Paraburdoo and will provide better access to hospitals and medical services, local

businesses, shopping and service centres and further employment opportunities.

When both Stages 3 and 4 are complete, road users will save over two and a half hours in travel time on the existing route utilising Roebourne Wittenoom Road and Nanutarra Road.



### Aboriginal engagement and participation

As part of these works, Main Roads is committed to providing employment and opportunities for local Aboriginal communities. Main Roads has set targets for Aboriginal employment (13%, including 5% locals) and a 15% target with a total contract spend on local Aboriginal Businesses of 5%.

### When does Stage 4 start?

Project Development of stage 4 is underway. Main Roads expects that the Development work will be completed by late-2021, after which the two to three year construction period is intended to commence.

### Want to find out more?

If you would like to keep updated on the progress of the Karratha Tom Price project, please subscribe to updates on the [Main Roads website](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au)