

MEDIA STATEMENT

24 April 2018

Longreach North highway upgrade under way

Work is under way to deliver a \$25 million upgrade of the Landsborough Highway, between Longreach and Winton.

The project, which will upgrade about 25km north of Longreach, is part of the \$600 million Northern Australia Roads Program (NARP).

Transport and Main Roads Director General Neil Scales said the Landsborough Highway was the principal north-south route serving western Queensland.

“The highway is a key tourism route and vital supply chain, with improvements set to widen sections to meet current standards, upgrade drainage and improve road safety for all motorists,” Mr Scales said.

“This project will also help boost the economic productivity in northern Queensland by decreasing delays and improving travel times.

“The aim of the NARP is to upgrade high-priority roads in northern Australia that are essential to the movement of people and freight to support the North’s economic development.”

Mr Scales said the project would offer localised benefits for Central West communities.

“Upgrading this section of the Landsborough Highway will enhance the overall liveability of our vital rural communities through improved accessibility to essential services,” Mr Scales said.

“The project will also improve the road surface, which will make for a smoother ride for motorists.

“Importantly, it further contributes to the creation of jobs, with an average of 68 direct jobs to be supported over the life of the project.

“Ertech (Queensland) Pty Ltd has been awarded the construction contract and will carry out work Monday to Sunday between 6am and 6pm.”

Work is expected to be completed in mid 2020, weather permitting.

The Longreach North Upgrade is funded on an 80:20 basis with Australian and Queensland government contributions of \$20 million and \$5 million, respectively.

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