



## **The Hon Michael McCormack MP**

Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport & Regional  
Development  
Leader of The Nationals  
Federal Member for Riverina



## **The Hon Eva Lawler**

NT Minister for Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics  
NT Minister for Environment & Natural Resources  
NT Minister for Climate Change

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **KEEP RIVER – MORE JOBS FOR THE TERRITORY**

A tender to upgrade the Keep River Road has recently released.

Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Eva Lawler said, “This upgrade for up to 28 kilometres of road will deliver improved flood immunity, freight capacity and productivity to a number of Northern Australia’s cattle producers.”

“This project is anticipated to support more than 80 jobs for Territorians and increase the economic development of the area through year round access.”

“These works also stand to support the proposed Project Sea Dragon, the \$1.45 Billion prawn aquaculture project – awarded Major Project Status, which has the potential to create around 1500 ongoing jobs and proposed projects such as the Ord Irrigation Scheme Stage 3 and the Weaber Plains Gas Field,” Ms Lawler said.

The tender calls for works to be delivered in two phases, with stage one works to deliver the initial 13 kilometres from the WA border to a two-lane standard toward Legune Station, and a bridge over the Keep River.

In March 2018, the Territory Labor Government awarded a contract to local business Allcast Pty Ltd to manufacture special bridge girders for the Keep River Bridge, a Territory first, with the moulds here in Darwin.

The Keep River Road project is part of the Northern Australia Roads Program and is a partnership between the Australian Government and Territory Labor Government. The Australian Government has approved \$39.9 million for the first stage of the project, with the Territory Labor Government contributing \$17.5 million in total for both stages of the project.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said the \$39.9 million investment by the Federal Liberal and Nationals Government will improve the safety and reliability of this critical route and support economic growth in the nation’s north.

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“We’ve been working with northern jurisdictions, pushing hard to improve our roads to make it easier for people and freight to travel vast distances sooner and safer,” Mr McCormack said.

Ms Lawler said, “This is another demonstration of the Territory Labor Government’s promise to invest in the Territory’s construction industry, expanding the NT’s capability, increasing our opportunity to innovate and create local jobs.”

The tender to upgrade Keep River Road is anticipated to award in May 2019, with works expected to commence in July 2019. Completion of the first stage of this project is anticipated in September 2020.

Ends.

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