

Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

To: The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP (for decision)

- cc: Mr Simon Atkinson, Secretary
- cc: David Hallinan, Deputy Secretary

cc: Mr Philip Smith, First Assistant Secretary, Infrastructure Investment Division

Infrastructure Investment Program – Outback Way Funding Options for Donohue Highway

Action required by: 27 Aug 2021

Reason: To approve a funding arrangement to progress upgrades to the Outback Way.

Recommendations:

1. That you note the current status of works on the Outback Way.

Noted / Please Discuss

2. That you **agree** to recognise other investments on the Donohue Highway by Boulia Shire Council as in-kind contributions for sealing works on the Outback Way.

Agreed / Not Agreed

3. That you **agree** to seek approval to vary to the funding split between the Australian Government and Boulia Shire Council from 80:20 up to 100:0, depending on the value of Boulia Shire Council's in-kind contributions, through the 2021-22 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) process.

Signed / Not Signed

The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP

Date:

Comments:

Key Points:

- 1. The Outback Way is an approximately 2,720km route linking Laverton in Western Australia with Winton in Queensland via Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. The route varies in condition and standard, with sections of two lane seal, single lane seal, gravel and unformed roads.
- 2. Since 2013, the Australian Government has committed \$330 million to upgrade the Outback Way to a two lane seal on an 80:20 funding basis with proponents (see <u>Attachment A</u> for a map of upgrade locations). Not all committed funding has been allocated to specific works.

-PROTECTED: CABINET-

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MS21-000942

3. Once the Australian Government commitments are completed, approximately 956km of the Outback Way will remain unsealed or be below the contemporary two lane standard, summarised in table below.

| | AG funding commitment since 2013 (\$m) | Total length of roads (km) | Amount sealed before 2016 (km)* | Upgraded under current commitments (km) | Approximate distance remaining unsealed (km) |
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| Total | 330 | 2,719 | 1,300 | 463 | 956 |

*Existing sealed sections are often either single lane seal or 6m dual lane seal (neither meet minimum road standards). Progressive upgrades include sealing unsealed sections and widening the sealed single/dual lane sections to meet dual lane standards.

4. At least \$1 billion would be required to completely seal the Outback Way. However, further investigations are required to confirm likely costs to take into consideration site specific conditions, availability of materials, and labour costs as the remaining sections are extremely remote and are more challenging from a design solution point of view.

Northern Territory Status Update

- 5. Works are progressing steadily. However, the NT's ability to undertake further works on the Outback Way is constrained by industry's capacity and conflicting demands to deliver an already ambitious infrastructure/transport investment pipeline.
- 6. Currently \$50 million in Australian Government funding remains to deliver an anticipated 158km of upgrades.

Western Australia Status Update

- 7. Around 87km of sealing works along the Great Central Road are currently delivering significant indigenous participation, traineeship and employment opportunities.
- 8. Future short and medium priority works on the Great Central Road have been scheduled to deliver a total of 155km by mid-2022.

Queensland Status Update

- 9. Almost 122km of sealing has already been completed in Queensland using Australian Government funding.
- 10. \$33.5 million in Australian Government funding remains available for works on the Donohue Highway, Kennedy Developmental Road and Diamantina Developmental Road. These funds are not yet allocated for specific works, but sealing works on the Donohue Highway were recognised in the 2019 Investment Strategy as the highest priority in Queensland.
- 11. The Queensland Government is also keen to use some funding to upgrade the Kennedy Developmental Road to meet minimum two lane standards.

Boulia Shire Council

12. Boulia Shire Council, a remote local government with an annual rates base of around \$1 million, manages Donohue Highway and is keen to complete priority sealing works. However, in April 2021, the Boulia Shire Council passed a resolution to advise they were unable to commit their 20 per cent contribution (\$4.98 million) to the upcoming five year program of upgrades on the Donohue Highway.

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- 13. In order to deliver on the commitment to the Outback Way, but retaining the expectation that proponents make reasonable financial contributions to works, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the Department) recommends recognising road investment works on the Donohue Highway as in-kind contributions for the upcoming five year program. You have the authority to recognise in-kind contributions.
- 14. For example, Boulia Shire Council has identified a potential \$1.3 million allocation under the Queensland Recovery Authority for bridge recovery works on the Donohue Highway. If you decide to recognise these works as an in-kind contribution, the Australian Government could fund a potential \$5.2 million of priority sealing works, based on an 80:20 funding split.
- 15. The recognition of in-kind investment is consistent with similar arrangements in the Northern Territory and Victoria where works are funded on a 100:0 basis under the condition that the jurisdiction delivers other works on the Network or corridor to the value of their 20 per cent contribution.
- 16. Based on Boulia Shire Council's advice, the Department considers in-kind contributions to unlikely reach the full 20 per cent share (\$4.98 million). Accordingly, the Department recommends you seek approval at MYEFO to vary the funding split up to a maximum of 100 per cent Australian Government funding, without exceeding the committed funding.
- 17. The Department will work with Boulia Shire Council to identify appropriate in-kind investments to reach a 20 per cent share, but seeking approval to vary the funding split allows greater flexibility should suitable investments not be found.

Major Risk/ Sensitivities:

18. Creating any arrangement with Boulia Shire Council that varies from the 80:20 funding split may be perceived as unfair by the other state and council jurisdictions responsible for roads along the Outback Way. It may also encourage these jurisdictions to request that the Australian Government vary their arrangements in a similar manner.

Stakeholder Implications:

19. In June 2021, Ms Helen Lewis on behalf of the Outback Highway Development Council, approached the Department and members of the Queensland legislature to propose conditions for the 2018 commitment funding on the Outback Way. This includes exempting all local council roads along the Outback Way from any co-contribution requirement.

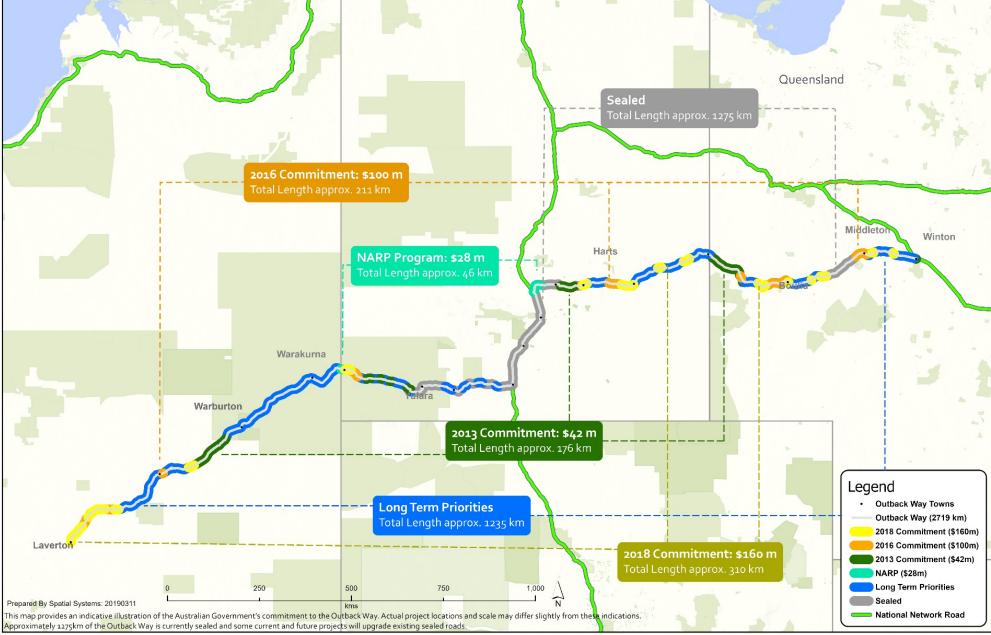
Shona Rosengren Assistant Secretary North West Infrastructure Investment Ph: 02 6274 8219 s 47F 16/08/2021 Contact Officer: s47E Director North Queensland & Northern Territory s47E

Attachments A. Outback Way map

MS21-000942 ATTACHMENT A

\$330 MILLION AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO THE OUTBACK WAY

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications





Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

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| The | Hon Barnaby Joyce MP Date: 3-9-2/ |
| Con | nments: |
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| | |

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Shona Rosengren Assistant Secretary North West Infrastructure Investment Ph: 02 6274 8219 s 47F 16/08/2021 Contact Officer: s47E Director North Queensland & Northern Territory s47E

Attachments A. Outback Way map





The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP

Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Leader of The Nationals Federal Member for New England

Ref: MS21-002853

The Hon Scott Morrison MP Prime Minister Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to seek your agreement to release funding set aside in the Contingency Reserve for six infrastructure projects, and to announce these important projects for regional Australia.

Through the Hunting Licence process, you agreed for the projects to be included as a Decision Taken But Not Yet Announced (DTBNYA) as part of the 2021-22 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO). Consistent with the Budget Process Operational Rules, your authority is required to enable me to make an announcement.

The projects to which I refer and their respective funding set aside in the Contingency Reserve are:

- s22
- Outback Way Western Australia Future Priorities \$400.0 million
- Outback Way Northern Territory Future Priorities \$124.0 million
- Outback Way Queensland Future Priorities \$112.5 million
- Outback Way Donohue Highway Progressive Sealing Package 3 \$41.5 million
- s22

Announcing the projects and funding will reinforce the Government's commitment to better connect our regions, improve safety on our roads and meet our national freight challenge.



The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP Parliament House Canberra | (02) 6277 7520 | minister.joyce@infrastructure.gov.au PO Box 963, Tamworth NSW 2340

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| s22 | | | |
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I have copied this letter to the Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP and Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Finance.

Yours sincerely

Barnaby Joyce MP

cc The Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Finance



The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP

Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Leader of The Nationals Federal Member for New England

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22 December 2021

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> > PROTECTED CABINET

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s22



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Infrastructure Investment Program

s22





BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Infrastructure Investment Program

Outback Way – Western Australia Future Priorities Western Australia

Australian Government Funding: \$476.50 million

This includes \$400.0 million of additional funding provided in 2021-22 MYEFO. Western Australia Government Contribution: \$119.13 million. **Total: \$595.63 million**

Project description

The Outback Way is a 2,720 kilometre route linking Laverton in Western Australia to Winton in Queensland, via Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

This investment will complete the seal of the Western Australian section on the Great Central Road. Funding will be allocated to specific sections of the road as planning progresses.

A sealed route will increase the safety, accessibility and reliability of the route and improve the inter-jurisdictional transport network. Upgrades will open opportunities for numerous industries along the corridor, including freight, pastoralism, agriculture, mining and tourism. A sealed route will also deliver social benefits for communities by improving access to goods and services and increased employment opportunities, particularly for Indigenous communities.

This funding is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to sealing and upgrading the Outback Way. The additional funding will enable the full length of the Outback Way in Western Australia to be sealed.



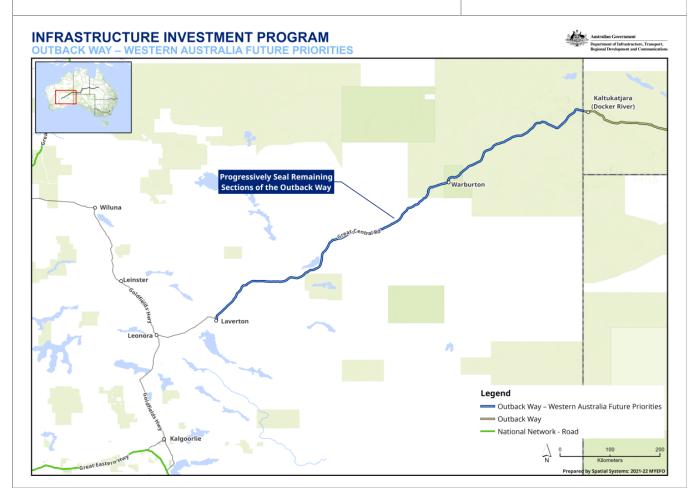
• This project is expected to support 1084 direct and indirect jobs.

Project benefits

- Improved travel times and safety.
- Improved efficiency and route reliability.
- Improved freight productivity.
- Improved connectivity between people with jobs and services, and goods with markets.

Project timelines

• This project is expected to start construction in mid 2022 and be finished construction by mid 2031.







BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Infrastructure Investment Program

Outback Way – Northern Territory Future Priorities Northern Territory

Australian Government Funding: \$174.00 million

This includes \$124.0 million of additional funding provided in 2021-22 MYEFO. Northern Territory Government Contribution: \$43.50 million. **Total: \$217.50 million**

Project description

The Outback Way is a 2,720 kilometre route linking Laverton in Western Australia to Winton in Queensland, via Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

This investment will progress the seal and upgrade of the Northern Territory section on Plenty Highway and Tjukaruru Road. Funding will be allocated to specific sections of the roads as planning progresses.

A sealed route will increase the safety, accessibility and reliability of the route and improve the inter-jurisdictional transport network. Upgrades will open opportunities for numerous industries along the corridor, including freight, pastoralism, agriculture, mining and tourism. A sealed route will also deliver social and economic benefits for communities by improving access to goods and services and increased employment opportunities, particularly for Indigenous communities.

This funding is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to sealing and upgrading the Outback Way. The additional funding will enable priority works to be progressed.

Jobs supported

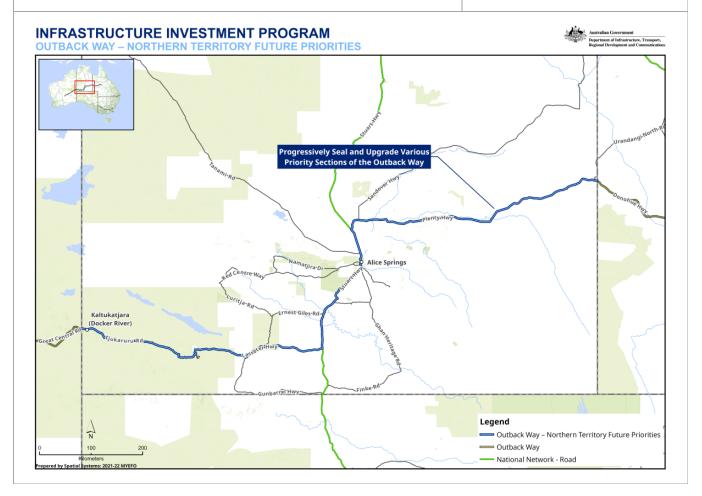
• This project is expected to support 422 direct and indirect jobs.

Project benefits

- Improved travel times.
- Improved efficiency and route reliability.
- Improved freight productivity.
- Improved connectivity between people with jobs and services, and goods with markets.

Project timelines

• This project is expected to start construction in mid 2022 and be finished construction by mid 2031.







BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Infrastructure Investment Program

Outback Way – Queensland Future Priorities Queensland

Australian Government Funding: \$146.0 million

This includes \$112.5 million of additional funding provided in 2021-22 MYEFO. Queensland Government Contribution: \$36.5 million. **Total: \$182.5 million**

Project description

The Outback Way is a 2,720 kilometre route linking Laverton in Western Australia to Winton in Queensland, via Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

This investment will complete the widening upgrades of the Queensland section of the Outback Way. Funding will be allocated to specific sections of the road as planning progresses.

A sealed and upgraded route will increase the safety, accessibility and reliability of the route and improve the inter-jurisdictional transport network. Upgrades will open opportunities for numerous industries along the corridor, including freight, pastoralism, agriculture, mining and tourism. A sealed route will also deliver social and economic benefits for communities by improving access to goods and services and increased employment opportunities.

This funding is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to sealing and upgrading the Outback Way. The additional funding will enable the full length of the Outback Way in Queensland to be upgraded.

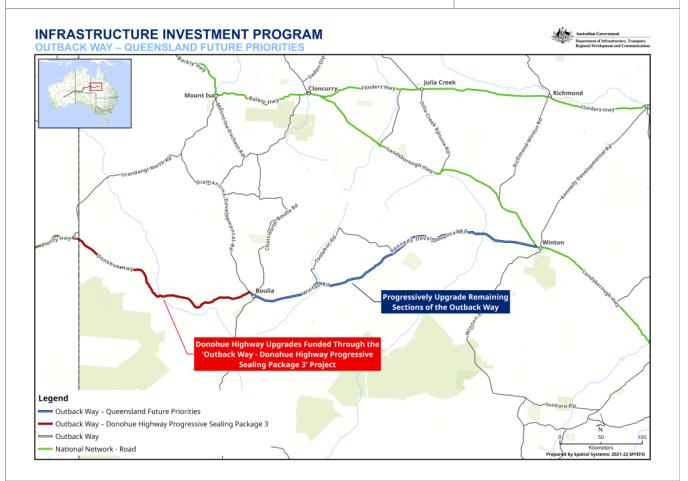
- Jobs supported
- This project is expected to support 547 direct and indirect jobs.

Project benefits

- Improved travel times and safety.
- Improved efficiency and route reliability
- Improved freight productivity.
- Improved connectivity between people with jobs and services, and goods with markets.

Project timelines

• This project is expected to start construction in late 2022 and be finished construction by mid 2031.









Infrastructure Investment Program

Outback Way – Donohue Highway Progressive Sealing Package 3 Queensland

Australian Government Funding: \$41.5 million

Total: \$41.5 million

Project description

The Outback Way is a 2,720 kilometre route linking Laverton in Western Australia to Winton in Queensland, via Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

This project is fully funded by the Australian Government and will be led by Boulia Shire Council to progressively seal the remaining unsealed sections of the Donohue Highway. The Donohue Highway is currently unsealed and in poor condition in various sections.

A sealed route will increase the safety, accessibility and reliability of the route and improve the inter-jurisdictional transport network. Upgrades will open opportunities for numerous industries along the corridor, including freight, pastoralism, agriculture, mining and tourism. A sealed route will also deliver social and economic benefits for communities by improving access to goods and services and increased employment opportunities.

This project is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to sealing and upgrading the Outback Way.

Jobs supported

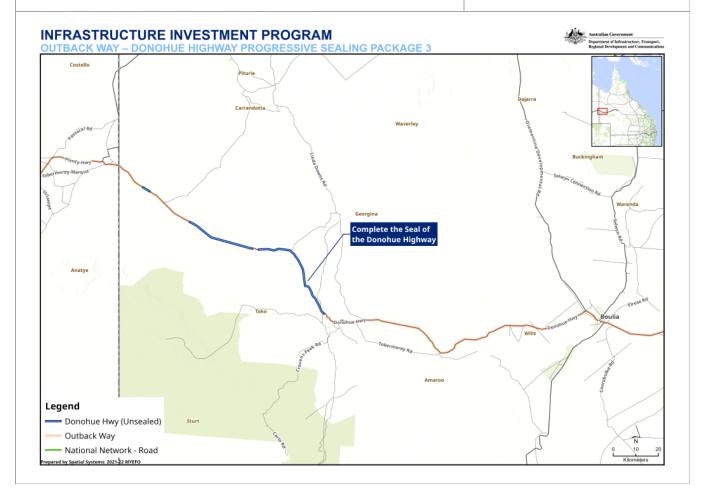
• This project is expected to support 124 direct and indirect jobs.

Project benefits

- Improved travel times and safety.
- Improved efficiency and route reliability.
- Improved freight productivity.
- Improved connectivity between people with jobs and services, and goods with markets.

Project timelines

• This project is expected to start construction in mid 2022 and be finished construction by mid 2028.





Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

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Infrastructure Investment Program

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Archived: Tuesday, 29 March 2022 5:27:06 PM From: ROSENGREN Shona Sent: Tue, 31 Aug 2021 13:58:32 To: s47E Cc: s47E S47E DLO Joyce Subject: Email 31/08/2021 - Townville Ring Road stage 5, outback way and Tiaro [SEC=OFFICIAL] Sensitivity: Normal

OFFICIAL



I hope this is helpful.



Outback way

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s22

Shona

Shona Rosengren

Assistant Secretary - Qld, NT and WA Branch • Infrastructure Investment Division

Shona.Rosengren@infrastructure.gov.au

P +61 2 6274 8219 • **s47F** GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications CONNECTING AUSTRALIANS * ENRICHING COMMUNITIES * EMPOWERING REGIONS (f) (in) (

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.

I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

OFFICIAL

Archived: Wednesday, 30 March 2022 10:17:16 AM From: \$47F Sent: Thu, 16 Sep 2021 16:23:37 To: \$ 47E

Subject: Email 16/09/2021 - RE: Outback Way road sealing - request for a chat [SEC=OFFICIAL] Sensitivity: Normal

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From: <u>s 47E</u> Sent: Thursday, 16 September 2021 4:21 PM To: <u>s47F</u> Subject: RE: Outback Way road sealing - request for a chat [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

His47F

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o WA: \$76.5 million in Australian Government funding.

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Please let me know if you need any other information, regards



OFFICIAL

From: s47F Sent: Thursday, 16 September 2021 3:03 PM To: s47E

Subject: RE: Outback Way road sealing - request for a chat [SEC=OFFICIAL]

 From: § 47F
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 Sent: Thursday, 16 September 2021 2:47 PM
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 To: §47F
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 Subject: RE: Outback Way road sealing - request for a chat [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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| OFFICIAL |
| From: s47F > Sent: Thursday, 16 September 2021 11:47 AM > To: s 47E |
| OFFICIAL |
| Hi <mark>s 47E</mark> |
| I understand you cover the Outback Way project. Would it be possible to have a chat sometime this afternoon to bring me up to speed on next steps? |
| I have read the minutes from the OHDC AGM and the IA single pager on the initiative. |
| Cheers and thanks |
| s47F |
| Adviser, Infrastructure |
| Office of the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP |
| Deputy Prime Minister |
| Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development |
| Leader of The Nationals |
| Federal Member for New England |
| MG41, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 |
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 Archived: Wednesday, 30 March 2022 10:21:44 AM

 From: \$47E

 Sent: Tue, 30 Nov 2021 13:12:52

 To: \$47E

 Cc: Smith Philip; MEAGHER Benjamin; \$47E
 47E

 Subject: \$34
 []

 Sensitivity: Normal

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s47E

Acting Assistant Secretary . Queensland, NT and WA Branch . Infrastructure Investment Division

s47E

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications CONNECTING AUSTRALIANS • ENRICHING COMMUNITIES • EMPOWERING REGIONS

\cbpat4 <u>infrastructure.gov.au</u>



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PROTECTED, SH:CABINET

Archived: Wednesday, 30 March 2022 10:22:07 AM From: s 47E Sent: Thu, 2 Dec 2021 16:08:17 To: s 47E Cc: MEAGHER Benjamin Subject: s 34 Sensitivity: s 34 Attachments: Outback Way Projects.xlsx;

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Director • Program and Financial Management •

Program, Policy and Budget Branch • Infrastructure Investment Division

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GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications CONNECTING AUSTRALIANS • ENRICHING COMMUNITIES • EMPOWERING REGIONS

| \cbpat3 infrastructure.gov.au | <u>l</u> | |
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PROTECTED, SH:CABINET

Existing Programs - since 2013/14 Figures as at Budget 2021-22^{s 47C}

| State | Project Name | Project Status at October 2021 | | 20-21 Forecast | |
|-------|--|-----------------------------------|----|----------------|--|
| | Outback Way - 2016 Election Commitment - NT - Plenty Highway | | | | |
| NT | Progressive Sealing | Under Construction | \$ | 5,000,000 | |
| | Outback Way - 2016 Election Commitment - NT - Plenty Highway | | | | |
| NT | upgrade and seal beyond Harts Range | Under Construction | \$ | 500,000 | |
| | Outback Way - 2016 Election Commitment - NT - Tjukaruru Road | | | | |
| NT | Progressive Sealing | Completed | \$ | 4,400,000 | |
| | Outback Way - 2016 Election Commitment - QLD - Diamantina | | | | |
| QLD | Developmental Road Pavement Widening | Completed | \$ | 820,000 | |
| | Outback Way - 2016 Election Commitment - QLD - Donohue Highway | | | | |
| QLD | Progressive Sealing Package 1 | Completed | \$ | - | |
| | Outback Way - 2016 Election Commitment - QLD - Donohue Highway | | | | |
| QLD | Progressive Sealing Package 2 | Completed | \$ | 2,700,802 | |
| | Outback Way - 2016 Election Commitment - QLD - Kennedy | | | | |
| QLD | Developmental Road Pavement Widening Package 1 | Completed | \$ | 1,100,000 | |
| | Outback Way - 2016 Election Commitment - QLD - Kennedy | | | | |
| QLD | Developmental Road Pavement Widening Package 2 | Completed | \$ | 2,860,000 | |

s 34

| | Outback Way - 2016 Election Commitment - WA - Great Central Road | | |
|-----|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| WA | Progressive Sealing | Under Construction | \$ 9,600,000 |
| NT | Outback Way – Northern Territory Section | Completed | \$ - |
| QLD | Outback Way – Queensland Section | Completed | \$ - |
| WA | Outback Way - WA | Under Construction | \$ - |



s34(3)





| Archived: Wednesday, 30 March 2022 10:23:08 AM | |
|--|--|
| From: s47E | |
| Sent: Thu, 2 Dec 2021 18:28:34 | |
| To: s47E | |
| Cc: MEAGHER Benjamin; \$47E | |
| Subject: ^{\$34(3)} | |
| Sensitivity: Normal | |
| Attachments: | |
| s34(3) | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| PROTECTED, SH:CABINET | |
| | |
| Hi <u>5</u>47 | |
| s34(3) | |
| 534(<i>3)</i> | |
| | |

Kind Regards,

s47 E

Program and Financial Management

Program, Policy and Budget Branch • Infrastructure Investment Division

s47E

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications CONNECTING AUSTRALIANS * ENRICHING COMMUNITIES * EMPOWERING REGIONS

\cbpat4 <u>infrastructure.gov.au</u>

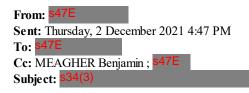
\cbpat4

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Kind Regards,



Program and Financial M anagement

Program, Policy and Budget Branch • Infrastructure Investment Division

s47

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications CONNECTING AUSTRALIANS • ENRICHING COMMUNITIES • EMPOWERING REGIONS

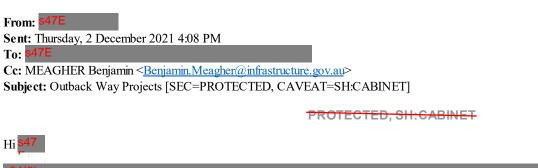
\cbpat4 infrastructure.gov.au

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-PROTECTED, SH:CABINET



s34(3)

PROTECTED, SH:CABINET

Hi **s47**

The final version is the table I sent earlier for the new \$678m AG funding. (below)

If you want to include the existing \$160m from the 2018 commitment yet to be allocated (the \$796.5m on the map) the existing cash flows look like

| Outback Way | Total AG | 21-22 (\$m) | 22-23(\$m) | 23-24(\$m) | 24-25(\$m) | 25-26(\$m) |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 2018 | commitment (m) | | | | | |
| QLD | 33.5m | 5 | 10 | 10 | | 8.5 |
| WA | 76.5 | 25 | 51.5 | | | |
| NT | 50 | 4 | 15 | 15 | 16 | |

New \$678m AG announcements

| | 21-22 | 22-23 | 23-24 | 24-25 | 25-26 | 26-27 | 27-28 | 28-29 | 29-30 | 30-31 | Total |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| NT – AG | | | | 4 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 124 |
| NT share | | | | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 31 |
| WA-AG | | | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 400 |
| WA share | | | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 100 |
| QLD – AG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6.5 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 18 | 112.5 |
| QLD Share | | | | 1.625 | 2.5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 28.125 |
| Donohue - | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 6.5 | | | | | | 41.5 |
| 100% AG only | | | | | | | | | | | |

PROTECTED, SH:CABINET

From: s47E

Sent: Saturday, 19 February 2022 7:37 PM To: ROSENGREN Shona Subject: Current - Outback Way - cash flows for new funding.docx [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

PROTECTED, SH:CABINET

Hi Shona,

Do you have the final version of the attached?

Kind regards,

s47E

PROTECTED, SH:CABINET







Infrastructure Investment Program

Outback Way – Donohue Highway Progressive Sealing Package 3 Queensland

Australian Government Funding: \$41.5 million

Total: \$41.5 million

Project description

The Outback Way is a 2,720 kilometre route linking Laverton in Western Australia to Winton in Queensland, via Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

This project is fully funded by the Australian Government and will be led by Boulia Shire Council to progressively seal the remaining unsealed sections of the Donohue Highway. The Donohue Highway is currently unsealed and in poor condition in various sections.

A sealed route will increase the safety, accessibility and reliability of the route and improve the inter-jurisdictional transport network. Upgrades will open opportunities for numerous industries along the corridor, including freight, pastoralism, agriculture, mining and tourism. A sealed route will also deliver social and economic benefits for communities by improving access to goods and services and increased employment opportunities.

This project is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to sealing and upgrading the Outback Way.

Jobs supported

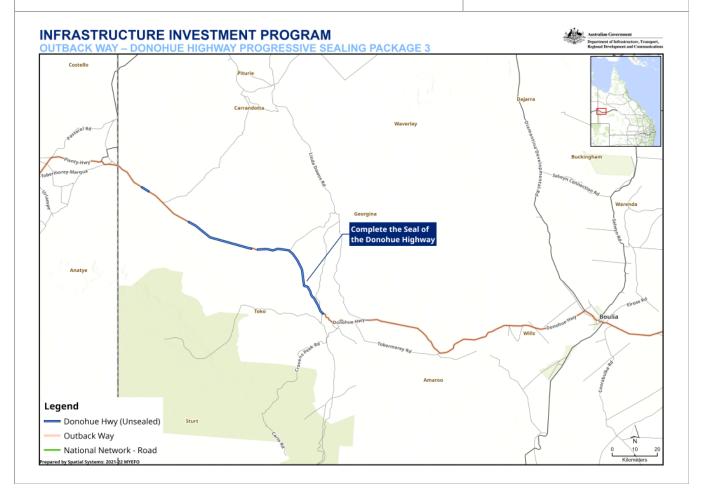
• This project is expected to support 124 direct and indirect jobs.

Project benefits

- Improved travel times and safety.
- Improved efficiency and route reliability.
- Improved freight productivity.
- Improved connectivity between people with jobs and services, and goods with markets.

Project timelines

• This project is expected to start construction in mid 2022 and be finished construction by mid 2028.







BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Infrastructure Investment Program

Outback Way – Northern Territory Future Priorities Northern Territory

Australian Government Funding: \$174.00 million

This includes \$124.0 million of additional funding provided in 2021-22 MYEFO. Northern Territory Government Contribution: \$43.50 million. **Total: \$217.50 million**

Project description

The Outback Way is a 2,720 kilometre route linking Laverton in Western Australia to Winton in Queensland, via Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

This investment will progress the seal and upgrade of the Northern Territory section on Plenty Highway and Tjukaruru Road. Funding will be allocated to specific sections of the roads as planning progresses.

A sealed route will increase the safety, accessibility and reliability of the route and improve the inter-jurisdictional transport network. Upgrades will open opportunities for numerous industries along the corridor, including freight, pastoralism, agriculture, mining and tourism. A sealed route will also deliver social and economic benefits for communities by improving access to goods and services and increased employment opportunities, particularly for Indigenous communities.

This funding is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to sealing and upgrading the Outback Way. The additional funding will enable priority works to be progressed.

Jobs supported

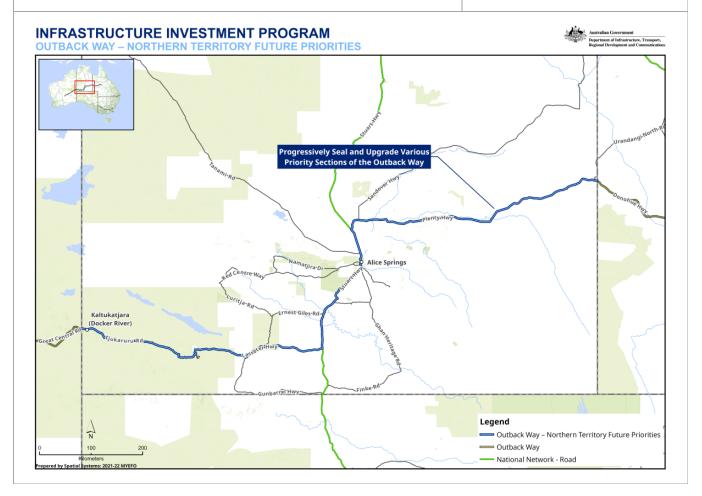
• This project is expected to support 422 direct and indirect jobs.

Project benefits

- Improved travel times.
- Improved efficiency and route reliability.
- Improved freight productivity.
- Improved connectivity between people with jobs and services, and goods with markets.

Project timelines

• This project is expected to start construction in mid 2022 and be finished construction by mid 2031.







BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Document 1

Infrastructure Investment Program

Outback Way – Queensland Future Priorities Queensland

Australian Government Funding: \$146.0 million

This includes \$112.5 million of additional funding provided in 2021-22 MYEFO. Queensland Government Contribution: \$36.5 million. **Total: \$182.5 million**

Project description

The Outback Way is a 2,720 kilometre route linking Laverton in Western Australia to Winton in Queensland, via Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

This investment will complete the widening upgrades of the Queensland section of the Outback Way. Funding will be allocated to specific sections of the road as planning progresses.

A sealed and upgraded route will increase the safety, accessibility and reliability of the route and improve the inter-jurisdictional transport network. Upgrades will open opportunities for numerous industries along the corridor, including freight, pastoralism, agriculture, mining and tourism. A sealed route will also deliver social and economic benefits for communities by improving access to goods and services and increased employment opportunities.

This funding is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to sealing and upgrading the Outback Way. The additional funding will enable the full length of the Outback Way in Queensland to be upgraded.

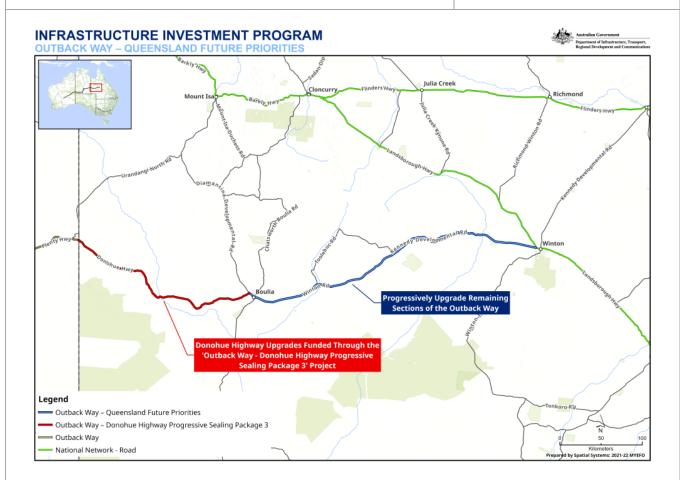
- Jobs supported
- This project is expected to support 547 direct and indirect jobs.

Project benefits

- Improved travel times and safety.
- Improved efficiency and route reliability
- Improved freight productivity.
- Improved connectivity between people with jobs and services, and goods with markets.

Project timelines

• This project is expected to start construction in late 2022 and be finished construction by mid 2031.







BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Document 1

Infrastructure Investment Program

Outback Way – Western Australia Future Priorities Western Australia

Australian Government Funding: \$476.50 million

This includes \$400.0 million of additional funding provided in 2021-22 MYEFO. Western Australia Government Contribution: \$119.13 million. **Total: \$595.63 million**

Project description

The Outback Way is a 2,720 kilometre route linking Laverton in Western Australia to Winton in Queensland, via Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

This investment will complete the seal of the Western Australian section on the Great Central Road. Funding will be allocated to specific sections of the road as planning progresses.

A sealed route will increase the safety, accessibility and reliability of the route and improve the inter-jurisdictional transport network. Upgrades will open opportunities for numerous industries along the corridor, including freight, pastoralism, agriculture, mining and tourism. A sealed route will also deliver social benefits for communities by improving access to goods and services and increased employment opportunities, particularly for Indigenous communities.

This funding is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to sealing and upgrading the Outback Way. The additional funding will enable the full length of the Outback Way in Western Australia to be sealed.



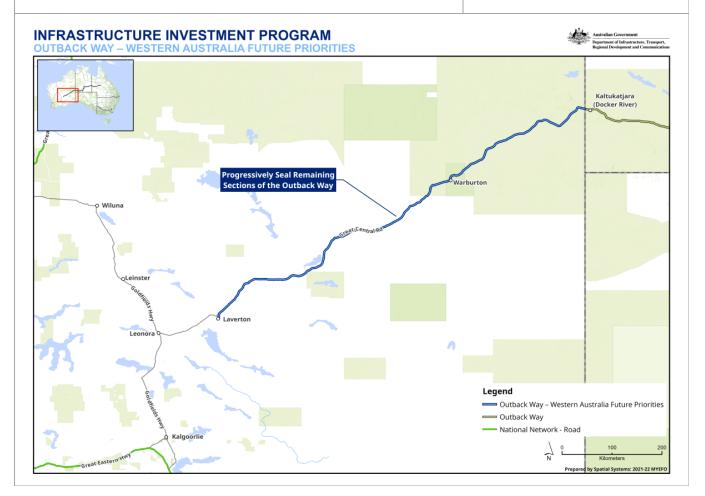
• This project is expected to support 1084 direct and indirect jobs.

Project benefits

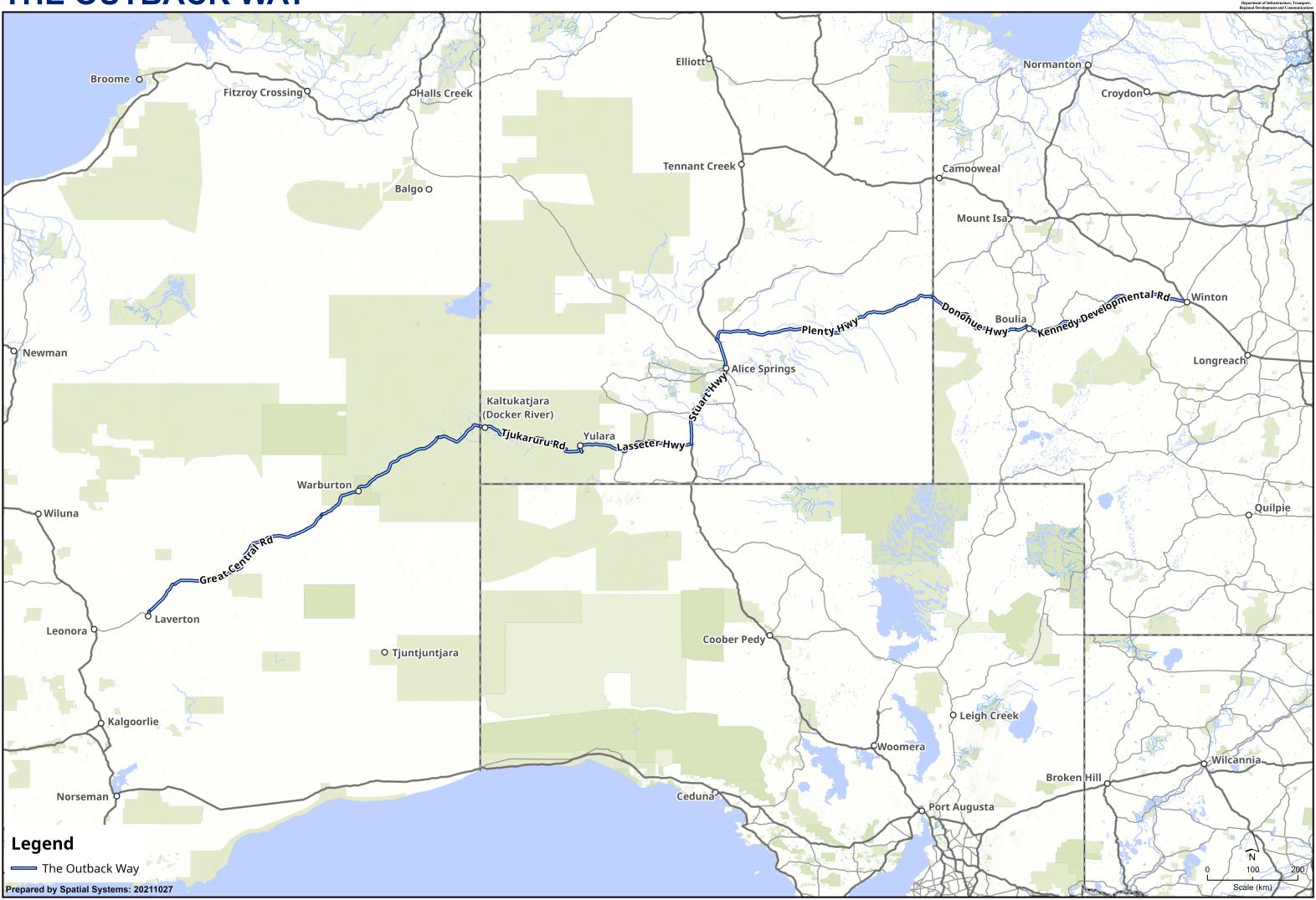
- Improved travel times and safety.
- Improved efficiency and route reliability.
- Improved freight productivity.
- Improved connectivity between people with jobs and services, and goods with markets.

Project timelines

• This project is expected to start construction in mid 2022 and be finished construction by mid 2031.



THE OUTBACK WAY





Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport