

PROJECT UPDATE
JULY 2020



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



mainroads
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Shire of
Halls Creek

Duncan Road & Gordon Downs Road Upgrade



The Australian Government and Western Australian State Government have jointly-funded the \$51 million upgrade of Gordon Downs Road and Duncan Road in Halls Creek

Earthworks are progressing well on the Duncan Road and Gordon Downs Road upgrades. These local government roads are the main transport link between Halls Creek and the Ringer Soak community, and provide access to the Browns Range Rare Earths Project, which is being developed by Northern Minerals Ltd.

Main Roads and the Shire of Halls Creek entered into a partnering agreement to deliver this project, which is expected to be completed by 2022.

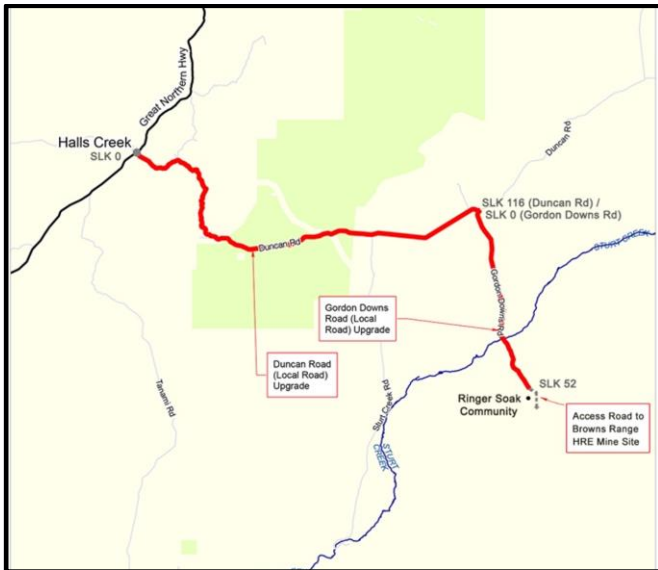
Main Roads is directly managing the Duncan Road and Gordon Downs Road project on behalf of the Shire of Halls Creek, which involves the upgrade of 168km in total. Works include improvements to drainage, as well as pavement construction and sealing. Around 110km of Duncan Road (from Great Northern Highway) and 52km of Gordon Downs Road will be upgraded to connect to the Browns Range Mine Access Road.



Sturt Creek Crossing impassable during the wet season.

The upgrade will improve road safety and the efficiency of freight movements by enhancing serviceability of the existing access roads.

The sealed roads will also reduce the number of road closures during wet periods and provide improved all year access to critical services and employment across the broader Kimberley region for remote and Aboriginal communities.



Project Timeline

In 2020, works will focus on upgrading drainage across the black soil plains to improve access during the wet season.

Duncan Road

- Upgrade gravel pavement for 18km section over black soil plains.
- Floodway and drainage improvements.
- Upgrade the intersection with Gordon Downs Road.

Gordon Downs Road

- Continue upgrading gravel pavement from Duncan Road to Sturt Creek crossing.
- Drainage and floodway improvements through to Ringer Soak Community.
- Upgrade and seal the Sturt Creek Crossing.

Project Activities for 2021

Planned activities in 2021 will focus on road safety improvements on the section of Duncan Road through the hills.

Momentous time for Shire of Halls Creek

Shire of Halls Creek CEO, Noel Mason said the Shire staff have been a long time preparing for this day, with the Shire making the decision to be involved with a road crew in July 2019. "Since then, all equipment has



been sourced, purchased and moved to Halls Creek," Mr Mason said.

"The Shire has employed 11 new road workers, who spent the summer in training and are now qualified and working on the job.

"The residents of Halls Creek will be thrilled to see a local crew operating Shire plant and equipment on our local roads."

On 1 May, the Shire marked the occasion with a 'machinery day' for locals and exhibited the heavy machinery before the equipment to the project site. The event was well received by locals.



The Shire is working closely with the local community and traditional owners, the Jaru people who are the traditional owners for both roads and Yaruman (Ringer Soak) community.

Many locals and traditional owners are excited about the project and support the upgrades.

Further information

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