

JOBS

The Roads people are doing lots of work around Fitzroy Crossing. A local office is being set up so people and businesses can drop in and find out about job opportunities.

Opening date and times to be advised.



PASSENGER FERRY

The passenger ferry service remains in operation across the river, while river conditions permit or until the low level crossing is open to traffic.

Up to Wednesday 29 March, 5094 people have boarded the ferry to cross the river.

LOW LEVEL CROSSING – UPDATE

The 200m long single lane rock causeway near the old crossing should open next week and initially provide access for 4WD vehicles only across the river, however that will be dependent on the depth of water flowing over the causeway. The crossing will provide access for most vehicle types once river levels have receded enough and upgrading of the approach ramps is completed. Main Roads anticipate that single semi-trailers may also be able to use the crossing by the end of April.



HELP APPLYING WITH THE PREMIER'S FLOOD PAYMENT

The Premier has announced a \$1000 payment for people over 18 (on or before 10 Jan) who had their house damaged by the Kimberley Floods.

If you need help with your application, you can:

- visit your nearest Flood Hub
- call the Disaster Response Hotline on 1800 032 965 (Mon- Fri 9am – 4pm)
- speak with the Community Outreach team when they are in your community.
- You can apply online at <https://dfes.smartygrants.com.au/PremiersFloodPayment>

BOOKINGS ON HOLD - 4WD FERRY SERVICE

The 4WD ferry service commenced on 21 March with 42 vehicles transported across the river as of 27 March. Another 150+ vehicle have made a booking and these are being prioritised based on need and essential services.

Bookings are being contacted 48 hours in advanced with a time slot and direction to prepare for crossing. Cancellation of bookings are filled immediately with a wait list. Based on the number of enquires and expressions of interest to cross there is no further capacity to receive bookings.



State Recovery Coordinator Update - Rob Cossart

I would like to begin by acknowledging the leadership and resilience of the impacted communities in both the flood response but also in the recovery journey so far. I appreciate the many honest conversations that I have had with communities and businesses over the past two months to understand their impacts and recovery needs.

As we work through the many challenges in front of us, it is critical that we remain focused on the individuals directly impacted by the flood, many of whom are still displaced from their homes and need ongoing support. The recovery team are committed to getting everyone back home and supporting them through the process.

The Flood Hub is a place where people from flood affected communities can seek information on any aspect of the recovery, speak to recovery support staff about their individual needs or access support services. The Fitzroy Crossing Hub is located at the Visitor Centre and pop-up hubs will be established in impacted communities to ensure all communities have access to support services. There are also Flood Hubs located in Derby and Broome.

I have been empowered by the passion and leadership of the Fitzroy Valley Flood Recovery Working Group. The Group consists of two representatives of each of the impacted Native Title groups and will soon be expanded to include community and business representation. The Group has been meeting fortnightly providing guidance and input into the recovery planning.

I am pleased that Douglas D'Antoine has come on board as the interim Executive Officer to support the community recovery providing support and guidance to myself and the Shire. Doug has been meeting with the PBCs and community councils and ensuring they connected to the recovery, are receiving the support they need, and their issues are being addressed.

As the weather starts to change and roads dry out, you will have seen increased activity on the ground as the work crews commence activities to repair damaged infrastructure and roads, properties are cleaned up and the temporary accommodation is established. Our focus at the moment is the continued clean up of communities, ensuring the people directly impacted by the flood have access to support services and commencing repairs to damaged houses.

The recovery team is continuing to hold the fortnightly Community Recovery Meetings and I encourage people to come along and hear updates from the various agencies and ask questions or raise issues that need to be resolved. It is critical that we are meeting the community's needs.

The WA Government will continue to support the recovery and provide ongoing support to the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley and the community for as long as it's needed.

Checking the flood marks

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation water monitoring team were out collecting valuable flood marks this week. What is flood marking and why do we do it?

Flood marking is where we find flood debris the furthest we can back from the river; sticks, leaves and even logs stuck up in trees. We locate these bits of flood evidence and then using surveying equipment we record precisely where they are. We do this work at our river monitoring sites which we can't drive to in the Wet season so we have to fly there by helicopter. This means we have to do a lot of careful planning so we get it right the first time.

This is important data for improving our flood mapping and the quality of streamflow monitoring data.

The department is doing this important flood mapping work to help understand how best to rebuild things in the flood recovery



New bridge across Fitzroy River

Georgiou Group Pty Ltd, BMD Constructions Pty Ltd, and BG&E Pty Ltd have been awarded the contract to construct the new Fitzroy River Bridge in Western Australia's Kimberley region. They will join Main Roads WA to form the Fitzroy Bridge Alliance. Design work for the new bridge, in consultation with key stakeholders including Traditional Owners, is progressing well.

Site works remain on track to begin in April 2023 subject to weather conditions and the resolution of environmental and heritage issues.

The Alliance partners have significant experience in constructing bridges in Western Australia and have committed the resources required to commence construction activities as soon as possible. The new bridge is scheduled to be operational by mid-2024.

This project is jointly funded through the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Contact Information

Department of Communities Disaster Response Hotline

1800 032 965

Mental Health Help - Fitzroy Crossing

9166 1700

Mental Health Help - Derby

9193 3605

After Hours - Mental Health Support

1800 552 002

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Crisis Support (24/7)

13YARN (13 92 76)

Useful Links

www.mainroads.wa.gov.au

www.sdwk.wa.gov.au

www.emergency.wa.gov.au/recovery

Flood Hubs

Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre

4 Flynn Drive
8am-4pm Monday -
Friday

Broome Boulevard Shopping Centre

106 Frederick Street
10am-2pm
Monday - Friday

Derby Housing Office

16-22 Loch Street
10am-2pm
Monday - Friday

Do you have a story to share or updates from your area? We want to hear from you! Contact us by phone (08) 9191 0999 or email media@sdwk.wa.gov.au