FLOOD NEWS FLASH

20th April 2023

LOW LEVEL CROSSING HAS BEEN OPENED

The Roads people have now opened the low level river crossing in Fitzroy Crossing. River levels are being monitored and the crossing will stay open unless it is safe not to do so. For the latest updates, check the travel map on mainroads.wa.gov.au.

GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY OPEN BETWEEN ROEBUCK ROADHOUSE AND PORT HEADLAND

The closed section of Great Northern Highway is back open, but there is some pavement damage and water over the road. Drivers should drive with extreme caution. Visit mainroads.wa.gov.au to see a travel map of road closures.

KIMBERLEY FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A freight assistance program to reduce freight costs for Kimberley businesses impacted by the floods is available. If you'd like information about the program, a DPIRD staff member named Chia is visiting Kununurra this week until Friday 21 April.

If you'd like help, call her on 0437 733 573 or you can book a face-to-face appointment at the Kimberley Development Commission's office (7 Ebony Street, Kununurra). She can also meet you at your Kununurra-based business.

SUPPORT FOR ABORIGINAL BUSINESSES AND JOB SEEKERS

Support is available for Kimberley-based Aboriginal businesses and job seekers impacted by the floods—including programs to help businesses grow and succeed.

Jobseekers can access training, employment and career support services—including advice, assistance and access to job search boards. Head to agric.wa.gov.au/kimberley-flood-recovery to see the full list.

WORK STARTING SOON ON THE FITZROY RIVER BRIDGE

The Roads people plan to start work to build the new Fitzroy River bridge in the next few weeks. The demolition of the old bridge is scheduled for late May. More bridge workers will arrive over the next few weeks. Machines and equipment will also start to arrive on site.

The Roads People will be looking for workers for a range of different positions (training provided). They will also be looking for local businesses to provide services for the project. More info will be shared soon.



Will Telfer Fitzroy Bridge Alliance Director

As a newcomer to Fitzroy Crossing, I don't pretend to fully understand what this community has been through, but I am here to learn, to work with the community and to build a new bridge over the Fitzroy River.

As the leader of the team building the new bridge on behalf of Main Roads, I can tell you I am working with some amazing people, all experts in their field who are committed to building this bridge as safely and quickly as possible.



When I first started out as an engineer, I used to love building things. I enjoyed the technical challenge and looked forward to seeing the end result. But now, it's about the people – helping others to step up to the next level and challenge themselves. That is one of the reasons I am so excited about this job. As well as being able to help the team develop and grow, I also get the opportunity to bring community members onto our team and provide new training and development opportunities.

However, I appreciate this job is not easy, and there are many nights I lie awake at 3am thinking about work. But I love solving complex problems and working at this fast pace. So for the next 18 months, I will be splitting my time between Fitzroy Crossing and my home in Perth.

In the next couple of months I am looking forward to bringing my family to Fitzroy Crossing. Close to 20 years ago this month, my wife and I were married in Broome. To celebrate our anniversary, I am planning to revisit Broome and then introduce my wife and children to the Fitzroy Valley.

I have been fortunate enough to have already met a few people in the community, but I look forward to spending more time here, hearing more stories and meeting more local people.

Youth Week 2023 - Fitzroy Crossing

The Shire with collaboration from multiple agencies have delivered an action packed line up of events over the last few weeks during the April school holidays.

As we go through the recovery from the flooding all youth service providers wanted to deliver events that supported our youth and ensure they aren't forgotten as we work hard to repair the damage to homes and lives in the Fitzroy Valley.

Some of the events held were bubble soccer, archery, pool activities, movie nights with popcorn, discos and basketball.

Our kids have broken the record for the amount of kids participating with over 100 kids attending several programs during this school holidays.

All youth workers and support services in town have delivered an exiciting program this school holidays and will continue to do so throughout the recovery period.







The Flood Hub 'spontaneous' music event

On Wednesday the Flood Hub put together a fantastic event for the whole community and visiting band Death by Carrot performed with local musicians also supporting.

A free BBQ was prepared by the Flood Hub and the Fitzroy Valley community showed up to give support.

This event came together in 48 hours and even Divina D'anna MLA heard about the event and offered support to the Fitzroy Valley.

This event couldn't of happened without the entire Flood Hub support team working on it.

If you need assistance just remember the team at the Flood Hub is here and will help you. The Flood Hub is open 8am-4pm Monday to Thursday

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)

Next Community Meeting

Fitzroy Crossing Recreation Centre - Tuesday 2nd May 2pmUpdates from Main Roads, Dept of Communities and many more

Flood Hubs

Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre

4 Flynn Drive 8am-4pm Monday-Thursday 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