



**FLOOD NEWS FLASH**  
14th December 2023

Artwork by Natalie Davey

# The New Fitzroy River Bridge is now open!

On Sunday the 10th Dec, the community celebrated the huge milestone of the new bridge opening, just in time for the upcoming wet season! A huge congratulations to Main Roads and the Bridge Alliance and all the local contractors and workers that were apart of this momentous project.

To have a large-scale project like this completed six months ahead of schedule is a huge achievement for all involved. The bridge opening has given the community reassurance ahead of the upcoming wet season and will be able to connect people from the east and west sides of the river.

*Construction of the new Fitzroy River Bridge was jointly funded under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.*







## Betterment funding announced for flood damaged road infrastructure

The Federal and State Governments have announced more than \$100 million in funding to improve flood prone Kimberley roads.

In a first of its kind for WA, funding is available to repair and rebuild essential road infrastructure to a stronger, more resilient standard to better withstand future natural disasters.

The Infrastructure Betterment Package is targeted towards resilience works on roads, bridges and floodways, damaged during the floods – including construction of the new Fitzroy River Bridge and damaged sections of the Great Northern Highway and Gibb River Road.



Read the full media statement here: <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/media-statements>

*The Infrastructure Betterment Program is jointly funded through the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.*

## Temporary Low Level Crossing now closed

Now that the new bridge is open, work has begun to remove the temporary crossing between Russ Road and Yurabi Road.

The crossing needs to be removed before the river rises to stop pipes and rocks washing downstream and causing damage.



## Flood Hub Christmas Hours

The Flood Hub in Fitzroy Crossing will be staying open over the Christmas break period, but will be closed on public holidays. Please come and see us if you have any inquiries or need any assistance with recovery.

**Monday 18th December - Thurs 21 December** : Open Normal Hours 8am - 12noon

**Friday 22 December** - Closed for outreach

**Saturday 23 December** - Closed

**Sunday 24 December** - Closed

**Monday 25 December** - Closed (Public Holiday)

**Tuesday 26 December** - Closed (Public Holiday)

**Wednesday 27 December** - Open 8am - 12 noon

**Thursday 28 December** - Open 8am - 12 noon

**Friday 29 December** - Closed for outreach

**Saturday 30 December** - Closed

**Sunday 31 December** - Closed

**Monday 1 January** - Closed (Public Holiday)

**Tuesday 2 January** - Open 8am - 12 noon



## Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Funding for fixtures and contents announced

The Lord Mayor Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) Presiding Chair Basil Zempilas has released a media statement announcing that applications are now open for people who experienced property damage in the Kimberley Floods.

People whose homes have suffered property damage because of the significant flooding event can apply for assistance of up to \$15,000 for fixtures and contents. \$3 million has been set aside for this category of support.



Applications for this round of funding can now be made in person to the Shire of Derby West Kimberley at the Flood Hub in the Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre. Contact the Flood Hub at 9191 0904 or in person on Corner of Forest Rd and 4 Flynn Drive from Monday to Thursday 8am to 12pm.

Eligible applicants may choose to replace fixtures and contents from any of the following participating stores in the region:

- Betta Electrical (Derby)
- Fitzroy Crossing Hardware
- Ghost Gum Emporium
- Halls Creek Home & Electrical
- Harvey Norman (Broome)
- Kimberley Home & Electrical (Derby)
- Kmart (Broome)
- Mitre10 (Derby)
- FISH (Foundation for Indigenous Sustainable Health)

## Freight Assistance Program closing 31 December 2023

A friendly reminder that the Freight Assistance Program is closing on 31 December.

Any business or transport operator who had additional freight costs this year due to flooding and road damage caused by the cyclone may be eligible for financial support. Increased costs may be reimbursed for freight transported into or out of the impacted areas after 1 January 2023.



To learn more:

- Visit the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development website
- Call DPIRD Rural Business Development Unit on 1300 374 731
- Email [ruralbusiness.developmentunit@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:ruralbusiness.developmentunit@dpiird.wa.gov.au)
- Apply here: [https://dpiird.smartygrants.com.au/AGRN1044\\_CatD\\_Freight](https://dpiird.smartygrants.com.au/AGRN1044_CatD_Freight).

*The Freight Assistance Program 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)**

## Road Updates

- For information on road updates you can view the latest road report on the Shire of Derby West Kimberley website here: <https://www.sdwk.wa.gov.au/>
- For the latest travel advice on state roads, visit the Main Roads Travel Map at <https://travelmap.mainroads.wa.gov.au/Home/Map> or call 138 138
- For more information on Main Roads' Kimberley Flood Response, visit <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/travel-information/driving-in-wa/kimberley-flood-response/>

## Kimberley Floods Recovery Information

For Kimberley Floods Recovery Information please visit [www.emergency.wa.gov.au/recovery](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/recovery)

## Flood Hubs

### Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre

4 Flynn Drive  
8am-12 noon  
Monday - Thursday  
(08) 9191 0904

### Broome Flood Help

Call 0476 897 424  
If you're in Broome and  
need help

### 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](mailto:media@sdwk.wa.gov.au)**

