



SHIRE OF HALLS CREEK  
16 February 2017

SUBMISSION TO:  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON NORTHERN AUSTRALIA  
INQUIRY INTO OPPORTUNITIES AND METHODS FOR STIMULATING THE TOURIST INDUSTRY IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

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## INTRODUCTION:

The Shire of Halls Creek (Appendix 1 Location Plan) is located in the Kimberley region of Northern Australia. The Shire is the home of the Purnululu World Heritage Park, the Wolfe Creek Crater National Park and the iconic Canning Stock Route. Paruku Indigenous Protected Area (Lake Gregory and Lake Stretch) in the Tjurabalen region is a unique wetland system in the middle of the desert full of birdlife. Local Aboriginal people are also ready to develop cultural tourism experiences across the Shire, incorporating existing tourist opportunities such as the world renown Warlayirti artists from Balgo.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimated the 2015 population to be 3,930 people however it is generally agreed that the actual population is higher due to a low participation rate in the national census. Around 80% of the population identifies as Aboriginal and almost 50% are under the age of 25 years. The Shire covers an area of 142,908 square kilometres. The main centre is the town of Halls Creek with an estimated population of 1,443 people. The remaining population live in 52 permanent remote communities, on pastoral stations and in mining settlements. All the settlements in the Shire, including the town itself, are classified as Very Remote under the ARIA+ (Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia).

The Shire has identified tourism as one of the three keys to economic development and job creation for local people along with mining and pastoralism. We are committed to fostering tourism development and advocating to increase local opportunities and overcome the challenges faced by those wanting to develop tourism in the area, particularly the local Aboriginal population who are one of the most socially and economically disadvantaged groups in Australia.

## SUMMARY:

- Cultural tourism development provides a significant opportunity for the economic development of Aboriginal people throughout the Shire, the Kimberley and Northern Australia however the challenges are considerable with regard to access and infrastructure.
- Cooperation and coordination between all levels of government and across State jurisdictions is vital to funding and developing infrastructure which will develop tourism in Northern Australia.
- Sealing the Tanami Road is one of the most important keys to unlocking tourism's potential in the Kimberley and the north of Australia providing a viable all year circular route for tourists from the Red Heart of Australia through the outback and desert of the Kimberley and onto Kakadu National Park. Funding the project should be a priority for all levels of government to unlock the potential of tourism in the north.



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**1. Domestic and international tourism comprising: recreational, environmental, cultural, educational, and industrial tourism**

**Opportunities:**

**Cultural Tourism:**

Northern Australia has a unique tourist experience to offer in cultural tourism. It is really the only place in Australia that can provide tourists with an insight into living Aboriginal culture on country. For both overseas and domestic tourists this is an attractive product which is highly valued by many travellers. Opportunities include bush tucker tours, traditional art centres, cultural education and historical trips on country. Guided tours of world heritage and national parks add considerably to the tourist experience when they are conducted by local people who have a personal connection to the land and stories going back tens of thousands of years.

The development and support of cultural tourism should be seen as a priority and supported. In remote parts of northern Australia it can be the key to moving Aboriginal people away from a welfare economy to a sustainable working economy. It can also become a major attraction for tourists, both internal and from overseas, who are looking for unique Australian outback experiences.

In the Shire of Halls Creek the tourism venture around the Mimbi Caves on the Great Northern Highway is a good example of the sort of tourism which could be developed by the local communities and corporations if visitor numbers were to grow and the challenges of access were overcome. The potential for cultural tourism along the unsealed Tanami Road is yet to be explored however the desert environment offers some spectacular tourist opportunities such as Lake Gregory and Lake Stretch, the desert itself with unique wildlife and bush tucker along with the wealth of knowledge held by the elders in the communities. This in turn would open up service opportunities such as fuel and accommodation, and these servicing requirements present excellent opportunities for Indigenous enterprise, particularly at the Billiluna, Balgo, and Mulan communities.

The Warlayirti Artists Centre at Balgo is known throughout the world as a centre for Aboriginal art – paintings are regularly sold to art dealers in Europe and through internet sales however on-site sales are limited due to the small number of people travelling over the Tanami Road. The Art Centre at Mulan also has huge potential to grow and if a tourist market for selling the art work could be established then a centre at Billiluna would be a very viable economic enterprise. Arts Centres can develop into major tourist attractions in themselves and when they are located in iconic locations such as the Tanami region they can also add significantly to the overall experience for tourists.



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### Challenges:

For remote areas such as the Shire of Halls Creek access is one of the primary challenges for those starting up cultural tourist ventures. Cultural tourism opportunities are by their very nature often remote in order to retain authenticity. This means that access is restricted by the condition of the access route. Dirt roads are a barrier to a considerable proportion of travellers – both self-driven and those on tour buses. The average grey nomad will be driving a 4 wheel drive vehicle but the caravan they are towing will not be capable of travelling over unsealed roads. Campervans and most tour buses are limited to driving on bitumised roads.

In the Shire the unsealed Tanami Road currently provides weather dependent access to three remote Aboriginal communities which could develop cultural tourism and as a result provide sustainable incomes to those who live there. There are very limited opportunities for enterprise in the Tanami area which is a determined Native Title area. Cultural tourism is one of them.

The three settlements are:

- Balgo – home of the Warlayirti artists
- Mulan – located in the Paruku Indigenous Protected Area (Lake Gregory)
- Billiluna – located at the start/finish of the Canning Stock Route and next to Lake Stretch.

These unique potential tourist attractions could be built on and developed if more tourists were able access the area thus providing a market. Sealing the Tanami Road would greatly enhance cultural tourism opportunities and the long term viability of these communities. Existing tourism operators in the Kimberley believe significant increases in tourist numbers would be achieved through an upgrade of the Tanami Road.

## **2. The role of peak bodies, local communities, and all levels of government in developing and promoting tourism opportunities nationally and internationally, including regulations and workforce issues that may inhibit tourism development;**

### Opportunities:

All levels of government have a role in the development of tourism, in particular the development of appropriate infrastructure such as roading. Sealing more roads provides access for tourists over a much greater part of the year as unsealed roads are subject to weather related closures for months. Sealing roads removes a barrier for the tourists who are not equipped for or experienced in driving on unsealed roads.



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They also provide better access for those working at tourist locations. Many tourist ventures, particularly recreational and environmental enterprises, need a qualified workforce to run facilities and tours in remote areas. Good all weather access raises the liveability of these isolated locations for staff. Sealed roads also provide all year round access for supplies and equipment. This can mean that tourist operations can be run all year round rather than be limited to the dry season which opens up a new market for northern tourism. The cost of transporting supplies along unsealed roads always includes an additional charge for wear and tear on delivery vehicles as well as the time spent on the road. Supplies would also therefore be cheaper which would make tourist ventures more economically sustainable.

There are many opportunities for different levels of government to work together in developing infrastructure. Funding for the sealing of roads like the Tanami Road is well beyond the capacity of a Shire such as Halls Creek however if funding is provided by the State and/or Federal Government then the Shire does have the resources and local skills to oversee the work, engaging local contractors to undertake the work. This sort of partnership could see the development of many roading projects which could benefit the tourist industry.

#### **Challenges:**

State and Federal governments are the main funders of infrastructure. There are many different sectors competing for infrastructure funding and it can be difficult to attract funding for roading projects which are solely based on tourism. It is also a challenge to attract road funding in remote areas such as the Kimberley where the resident population is small. In addition the economic potential of tourism is not easily calculated particularly where there may be a number of smaller ventures which would benefit as is the case for cultural tourism. The economic benefits do not therefore translate well into benefit/cost models used by government funders such as Infrastructure Australia in their decisions making.

A number of roads which have the potential to increase tourism travel cross over State boundaries. Often the greatest benefit is derived when the total length of a road is sealed – connecting two already sealed main roads. This requires State and local governments to be aligned in their roading objectives and planning. It requires cooperation and coordination to plan, fund and undertake roading projects which can be a considerable challenge to achieve.

As an example the Tanami Road runs from Alice Springs to Halls Creek - a total length of 1,014km with 306km in the Shire of Halls Creek, Western Australia and the rest in the Northern Territory (NT). Around 790km is currently unsealed. Sealing the total length gives the greatest benefit for tourism, creating a sealed link from the Stuart Highway in the NT to the Great Northern Highway in Halls



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Creek. Sealing the route on only one side of the border does not benefit the tourist industry in any way as it merely creates a dead end in the middle of the Tanami Desert for vehicles not equipped for

unsealed roads. Cooperation between all levels of government is therefore vital for the successful upgrade of tourism infrastructure.



### 3. Communication and transport infrastructure (particularly air, sea, road and rail transport and port infrastructure) which may facilitate and grow tourism.

#### Opportunities:

The Tanami Road is 1,010km long with 753km remaining unsealed between Halls Creek, WA and Yuendumu, NT. This unsealed section covers both sides of the Western Australian (WA) and NT borders. The road condition along the 703km section of the Tanami Road from the Stuart Highway turn off 19km north of Alice Springs to the WA Border comprises 220.5km sealed and 482.5km unsealed road. The first major town of Yuendumu is 269km from the Stuart Highway turnoff. Similarly from the WA border to Halls Creek the road is unsealed to the Halls Creek turnoff. This section of the road is managed as a local road by the Shire.

Currently tourism traffic on the Tanami Road is limited, the majority being self-drive (4 wheel drive vehicles) with some organised bus tours. The quantity of traffic along the Tanami Road varies with the seasons, but at its peak it is around 50 vehicles per day. This number is consistent over recent years and is not seen to be growing.

Upgrading the Tanami will have a major impact on the appeal of Northern Australia to self-drive tourists and tourist bus operators. Sealing the Tanami will create the 'North-Western Loop' that will





SHIRE OF HALLS CREEK

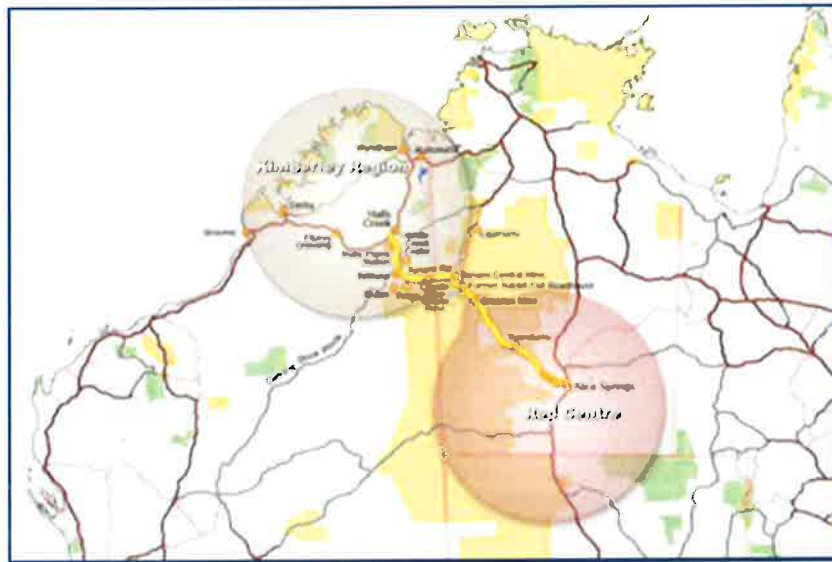
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enable tourists to do a circuit from Alice Springs to Halls Creek, through the Kimberley and into the Victoria-Daly before getting to Katherine, then down the Stuart Highway back to Alice Springs (or to head east on the Barkly Highway into North Queensland).



Currently most self-drive tourists are unwilling to tackle the Tanami Road – those with campervans and towing caravans do not want to risk damage to vehicles. Unsealed roads are perceived to be, and are in fact, a significant risk to vehicles and personal safety. Anecdotal evidence from visitors to the Halls Creek Travel and Tourism Centre confirms those traveling with lighter vehicles or towing caravans are unwilling to risk the journey. Most do not carry enough spare tyres and other repair equipment to deal with the issues that come with travelling on long trips over unsealed, and in parts unformed, road. The vast majority of tourists wanting to visit the Kimberley and Pilbara therefore have to travel through the southern portion of Western Australia or through the Northern Territory and Katherine. They have to either cover the whole of Western Australia or back track through areas they have already travelled through. This is a major deterrent given the vast distances, time and costs associated with travel in Northern Australia.

Creating a fully sealed circuit route would also open up an excellent opportunity for tour companies who can take in some of Northern Territories and the Kimberley's major tourist attractions. This would in turn encourage local cultural tourism to develop along the route and provide even more incentives for tourists to make the trip.



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Inter-regional tourist access between the Kimberley region and other states in Australia is currently limited by the lack of a direct accessible route. Sealing the road would result in the following distance savings between the Kimberley Centres and other major Australian centres:

<b>Alice Springs</b>	<b>Distance via Victoria &amp; Stuart Hwy</b>	<b>Distance via Tanami</b>	<b>Saving</b>
Kununurra	1691	1419	272
Halls Creek	2145	1076	1069
Fitzroy Crossing	2433	1332	1101
Derby	2694	1593	1101
Broome	2829	1728	1101
<b>Adelaide</b>	<b>Distance via Great Northern Victoria &amp; Stuart Hwy</b>	<b>Distance via Tanami</b>	<b>Saving</b>
Kununurra	3221	2949	272
Halls Creek	3675	2606	1069
Fitzroy Crossing	3963	2862	1101
Derby	4224	3123	1101
Broome	4359	3258	1101
<b>Melbourne</b>	<b>Distance via Great Northern Victoria &amp; Stuart Hwy</b>	<b>Distance via Tanami</b>	<b>Saving</b>
Kununurra	3960	3688	272
Halls Creek	4414	3345	1069
Fitzroy Crossing	4702	3601	1101
Derby	4963	3862	1101
Broome	5098	3997	1101
<b>Sydney</b>	<b>Distance via Tennant Creek</b>	<b>Distance via Tanami, Port Augusta</b>	<b>Saving</b>
Kununurra	4176	4224	- 48
Halls Creek	4579	3884	695
Fitzroy Crossing	4795	4137	658
Derby	5051	4398	653
Broome	5188	4533	655

The savings for tourists and tourist operators visiting the Kimberley in both time and cost are therefore significant with the sealing of the Tanami Road, making Northern Australia a more popular destination. Seeing the Kimberley and the Northern Territory is a 'must do' trip for many Australians and overseas visitors however it currently takes months to complete which means many delay the trip until retirement. Shortening the distances required to get to the North reduces both time and cost making the experience easier to undertake for younger people and families. This opens up a new market for northern tourism.

The Shire of Halls Creek has been advocating for the sealing of the Tanami Road for over 20 years. As a local road the Shire is responsible for maintenance and each year funding must be found to maintain and repair flood damage in order to keep it in a reasonable condition for the dry season. In the Northern Territory the road is the responsibility of the government which has also been advocating for the road to be sealed.



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There is considerable support for the sealing of the Tanami Road at all levels of government.

- The Pivot North Report recommended that the Government identify key roads and commit to funding their upgrade as a matter of priority (one of only 7 priority recommendations). The Tanami Road is included in a short list of 6 roading projects that it recommends be considered.
- The IA Priority list 2017 includes the sealing of the Tanami along its full length under Priority Initiatives.
- In the WA State Planning Strategy 2050 (2014) the Tanami Road is identified as a major road throughout the document in the same way as the Great Northern Highway and part of an Economic Activity Area
- The Kimberley Development Commission identifies the sealing of the Tanami as a Project in development in the Preliminary Pipeline of Infrastructure and Service Projects (Table 21) to support the vision and goals (including growth in tourism) in the 2036 and Beyond - A Regional Investment Blueprint for the Kimberley.
- The Shire of Halls Creek Strategic Community Plan (2015), based on extensive community consultation, identifies the sealing of the Tanami Road as the number one priority under the economic objective to make the Shire prosperous and viable.

Various NT government policy documents also highlight the sealing of the Tanami Road as a priority. There is significant support from development agencies, tourism operators and promoters in the region. Letters of support, attached as Appendix 2, outline the benefits of sealing the road to tourism across the Kimberley and Northern Australia.

The benefits to tourism are an important part of the business case to seal the Tanami Road along with the benefits it would bring to the mining and pastoral industries as well as to the local communities.

### Challenges:

Funding for infrastructure projects is the greatest challenge. The cost of sealing the full length of the Tanami Road from Alice Springs to Halls Creek (1014km) is estimated to cost a total of \$679.2m (undiscounted). The bulk of this funding will need to come from the Federal Government however a portion would still need to be found by the proponents – in this case the NT government and the Shire of Halls Creek. Overcoming this challenge will unlock all the potential benefits for tourism in the Kimberley and wider northern Australia.

In 2015 the Shire and NT government began to work together to prepare a business case to Infrastructure Australia (IA) for funding to seal the road. IA are considering the proposal and





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working with both the NT and Shire to look at ways funding can be allocated. Both the Shire and NT are now assessing the option of sealing the road in stages over a period of around 10 years. In relation to the project on the WA side this would allow the Shire to oversee and manage the sealing of portions of the road each year using local contractors and local labour. Staging the project may also allow the Shire to access its portion of the funding on an annual basis from State sources including the Royalties for Regions programme.

The Shire will continue to work with the NT government on the project until it is achieved. The support of the Federal Government is essential to getting the project underway and unlocking the potential for tourism to expand and develop in the Kimberley and north Australia.



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## **APPENDIX 1:**

### **LOCATION PLAN SHIRE OF HALLS CREEK**





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## **APPENDIX 2**

### **SELECTION OF LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO THE SHIRE OF HALLS CREEK**

#### **UPGRADING THE TANAMI ROAD**





16 July 2014

Rodger Kerr-Newell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Halls Creek  
PO Box 21  
HALLS CREEK WA 6770

Dear Mr Kerr-Newell

**RE: SUPPORT FOR UPGRADE OF TANAMI ROAD**

Thank you for bringing the efforts of the Shire of Halls Creek to have Tanami Road upgraded to my attention. This strategic link from South-Eastern Australia to the Kimberley Region is vital for a broad range of both community and economic concerns.

I have been made aware of the importance of Tanami Road to the mining, pastoral, defence and tourism industries. Further to this, the importance of Tanami Road to the local Aboriginal community must not be underestimated. All of Western Australia, and indeed Australia, benefits from the activities undertaken in the Kimberley region. It is clear that the upgrade of Tanami Road is an important element of ensuring the sustainability of the success of the Kimberley Region.

I have discussed this with the Executive Members of the Economic Development Australia Western Australian State Practitioners Network (EDA WA SPN), and we are very happy to provide our complete support for this initiative. I wish you all the best with your Infrastructure Australia Indicative Business Case submission, and am more than happy for this correspondence to be included as evidence of our support.

Regards

**JAY HARDISON**  
**CHAIR**  
**EDA WA SPN**

**Economic Development Australia Limited ABN 18 123 776 394**  
**PO Box 6137 St Kilda Road Central 8008 Ph 61 3 8534 5003**  
Web: [www.edaaustralia.com.au](http://www.edaaustralia.com.au)



29 July 2014

Rodger Kerr-Newell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Halls Creek  
PO Box 21  
HALLS CREEK W.A. 6770



**PO Box 246  
Fitzroy Crossing  
W.A. 6765  
PO Box 18  
Halls Creek WA  
6770**

Dear Mr Kerr-Newell,

#### **TANAMI ROAD UPGRADE**

The Central Kimberley Chamber of Commerce (CKCOC) fully supports any upgrade works on the Tanami Road as it performs a very strategic link from South-eastern Australia, direct to the Kimberley region.

The Kimberley Region is undergoing an economic development phase which will continue long into the future and will have the opportunity to grow much more rapidly if the Tanami is upgraded.

Drivers of this growth are gas and oil (both on and offshore), mining, cattle, pastoral, cattle/agricultural combined, defence and tourism.

- The Canning Basin is a potential major gas producer supplying not only export gas and oil but domestic gas for Western Australia's needs into the future.
- The mining of minerals including iron ore, diamonds, gold and rare earths continues and has the potential to expand rapidly in the Tanami region.
- The Kimberley cattle industry is set to double production over the next few years to fill the increasing needs of Asia's beef requirements.
- Agriculture is rapidly developing industry in the Kimberley with the recent expansion of the Ord Irrigation Area plus developing industries in the Fitzroy Basin and to South of Broome. The Kimberley certainly has excellent potential given the reliable rainfall, the large amount of suitable farming soil types and land forms yet to be developed. The launch of the State Government's Water for Food program and opening up of southern markets by upgrading the Tanami will assist this process.
- Tourism in the Kimberley is on the increase and widely regarded as a 'must see' destination for domestic and international travellers. Large numbers of people travelling in caravans and motor homes from the southern states get to Alice Springs and only have a choice of continuing north in the Northern Territory and the Kimberley doesn't become an option until they hit Katherine. From this point they have to decide if they want to drive across the Kimberley and back track or alternatively if they are prepared to travel all the way around Western Australia. Upgrading the Tanami would open up a loop option incorporating Alice Springs, the Kimberley and the Northern Territory which would have large impact on traveller numbers to the Kimberley and the benefits to all retail businesses.



## **Kimberley Zone of WALGA**

PO Box 44 Broome 6725 Ph: (08) 9191 3456 Fx: (08) 9191 3455

Ref: OGS03

28 July 2014



Rodger Kerr-Newell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Halls Creek  
PO Box 21  
HALLS CREEK W.A. 6770



Dear Rodger

On behalf of the Kimberley Zone of WALGA I am writing to express support for this cross borders project 'Upgrading the Tanami Road'.



The Tanami Road has 753km of currently unsealed road from Halls Creek to Yuendumu and services interstate freight transport companies, pastoral stations, defence, major mining operations, and gives access to tourism attractions and a number of important indigenous communities. At a strategic level, it provides a potentially important direct route between the Kimberley region and the major centres of south eastern Australia.



The 2009 Cummings Economic Impact study on a proposed upgrade of the Tanami Road to a sealed standard appropriate to an inter-state transport route will have major benefits to Western Australia, Northern Territory and South Australia.



The project, though costly, will have beneficial effects to the nation's economy through a direct realised benefit at more than \$750 million (2009 Cummings Report) from economic benefits such as the creation of employment along the road; savings in government special support expenditure, especially Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) in indigenous communities; secondary benefits to mining, agriculture and tourism; and safety benefits.

We commend the project 'Upgrading the Tanami' as a significant project that will have enormous positive, social and economic benefits to the people living in the area and for the rest of Australia and strongly support the Shire of Halls Creek in the upgrade of the Tanami Road.



Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned during office hours.

Yours sincerely

**Rebecca Herbert**  
**Project Manager – Kimberley Zone of WALGA.**

**To Whom it May Concern**

p: 08 9192 2450  
f: 08 9192 2451  
e: admin@rdakimberley.com.au  
w: rdakimberley.com.au  
Unit 4, 20 Hamersley Street, Broome

**Letter of Support**

All Postal  
Correspondence  
PO Box 653  
Broome WA 6725

**Re: Upgrading the Tanami Road**

To Whom It May Concern

On behalf of Regional Development Australia – Kimberley (RDA-K) I am writing to express support for this cross borders project 'Upgrading the Tanami Road'

The Economic Impact study provided substantial supportive information for this project that will have major benefits to Western Australia, Northern Territory and even South Australia.

The project, though costly, will have beneficial effects to the nation's economy through

- provision of a much shorter transport route linking the Kimberley region in Western Australia to the Red centre / Alice Springs area – a reduction in up to 1,100 kilometres of road travel.
- Increased opportunities for indigenous communities linked currently by an unsealed road – will provide a safer road to commute and shorter travel times, less impact on vehicles, ie maintenance and repairs.
- Major savings in tourism travel and movement and opens up economic opportunities in the area for tourism related business to both indigenous and non indigenous residents.
- Major savings in inbound freight movements and travel time – leading to reduced costs for communities in the northern region.
- Substantial reduction in freight times for horticulture products to be transported from the Kimberley region to the southern markets in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.
- Substantial reduction in freight times for movement of cattle and other pastoral stock from the north to the southern markets.
- Increased employment opportunities in the mining and resources industries in the region.
- Increased service delivery to remote indigenous communities in the area by health, welfare, education and other service providers.
- Has significant benefits to the Defence forces as this project opens up the transport routes from the southern regions of Australia to the north through a sealed highway

The north of Australia, especially the Kimberley region and the Northern Territory is experiencing significant growth through the mining and resources industries, horticultural and pastoral industries, and tourism and employment opportunities.

To provide a sealed highway linking the Kimberley to Alice Springs will have substantial economic benefits to the whole of Australia.



Rodger Kerr-Newell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Halls Creek  
PO Box 21  
HALLS CREEK W.A. 6770



Ninti One Limited  
ABN 28 106 610 833  
PO Box 3971  
Alice Springs NT 0871  
P (08) 8959 6000  
F (08) 8959 6048  
W [www.nintione.com.au](http://www.nintione.com.au)

Dear Mr Kerr-Newell,

**RE: TANAMI ROAD UPGRADE**

Ninti One fully supports any upgrade works on the Tanami Road as it performs a very strategic link from South-eastern Australia, direct to the Kimberley region.

Ninti One is an independent, national not-for-profit company that builds opportunities for people in remote Australia through applied on-ground research, innovation and community development. We do this at a community level in remote Australia, which sees us frequently travelling to remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including those accessed via the Tanami Road. Upgrading the Tanami Road would make Ninti One's interaction with these communities more effective and would also increase the safety of our staff using this route.

Ninti One conducts research on industries in central Australia, including mining (the interaction with local communities), pastoralism and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and tourism. All of these are affected by barriers to growth common to remote Australia, such as distance from markets, fragile or faulty supply chains and extreme climatic events.

These industries, along with the communities they support in Western Australia and the Northern Territory and ultimately the Australian economy would benefit from the Tanami Road being upgraded. There would also be benefits for other areas in which Ninti One is interested, namely education, health and wellbeing and natural resource management.

As Managing Director of Ninti One, I strongly support the Shire of Halls Creek in the upgrade of the Tanami Road. Please contact me directly if you wish to discuss this matter in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

JAN FERGUSON  
MANAGING DIRECTOR



**LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

Parliament House, PERTH WA 6000

Telephone (08) 6552 9900 Facsimile (08) 6552 9901

Email: [leader@loop.wa.gov.au](mailto:leader@loop.wa.gov.au)

Your ref:

Our ref: 15536

Mr Rodger Kerr-Newell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Halls Creek  
PO Box 21  
HALLS CREEK WA 6770

Dear Rodger

**TANAMI ROAD UPGRADE**

I fully support any upgrade works on the Tanami Road as it creates a strategic link from South-eastern Australia directly to the Kimberley region.

Its role includes access for mining corporations, pastoralists, defence, tourism and Aboriginal community access.

All Shires within the Kimberley, the state of Western Australia and the Australian economy would benefit from the Tanami Road being upgraded.

As Leader of the WA Labor Opposition, I strongly support the Shire of Halls Creek in the upgrade of the Tanami Road.

Yours sincerely

Mark McGowan MLA  
**LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**



## Hon Dave Grills MLC

Member for Mining & Pastoral Region

Rodger Kerr-Newell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Halls Creek  
PO Box 21  
HALLS CREEK W.A. 6770

29 July 2014

Dear Mr Kerr-Newell,

### **TANAMI ROAD UPGRADE**

I Hon Dave Grills MLC provide my support for any upgrade works on the Tanami Road as it performs a strategic link from South-eastern Australia, direct to the Kimberley region.

Its role includes access for mining companies, pastoralists, a developing agriculture industry, on and offshore gas and oil industry, defence, tourism and improved standard of living (and economic opportunities) in Aboriginal communities.

All Shires within the Kimberley, the state of Western Australia and the Australian economy would benefit from the Tanami Road being upgraded.

As your local member of the Legislative Council for Mining & Pastoral region I support the Shire of Halls Creek in the upgrade of the Tanami Road.

Contact me directly if you wish to discuss this matter in more detail.

Regards

Hon Dave Grills MLC

Member for Mining & Pastoral Region

PO Box 2470 Esperance WA 6450 | Shop 15 Dutton Arcade Esperance WA 6450

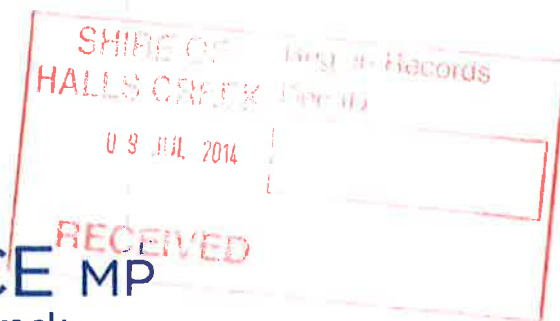
[dave.grills@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:dave.grills@mp.wa.gov.au)

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**MELISSA PRICE MP**  
Federal Member for Durack



Mr Kerr-Newell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire Of Halls Creek  
PO Box 21  
Halls Creek WA 6770

### **TANAMI ROAD UPGRADE**

It is with pleasure that I write in support of the Shire of Halls Creek and their endeavours to upgrade the Tanami Road.

The Tanami Road performs a vital link between South Eastern Australia and the Kimberley region. Also, it is used on a daily basis by mining companies, pastoralists, tourists, Aboriginal Communities and on a regular basis by the Australian Defence Forces.

The upgrade of the Tanami Road will benefit all of the Shires in the Kimberley, the state of Western Australia and the economy.

Being one of the most remote areas in Australia, the Kimberley is constantly striving to improve itself in an increasingly difficult economic climate. The Tanami Road upgrade will assist them in their pursuits.

I trust this letter gives you a clear indication of the high regard I have for the Shire of Halls Creek and their vision for the future. I wholeheartedly support their proposal.

Yours sincerely

**MELISSA PRICE MP**  
4 July 2014

**Freecall 1300 301 876**

**Email [Melissa.Price.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Melissa.Price.MP@aph.gov.au)**



07 August 2014

Rodger Kerr-Newell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Halls Creek  
PO Box 21  
HALLS CREEK W.A. 6770

Dear Mr Kerr-Newell,  
**RE: TANAMI ROAD UPGRADE**

This letter confirms the Council's support of the ongoing campaign of upgrading the Tanami Road that link from South-eastern Australia, direct to the Kimberly region.

Its role includes access for mining companies, pastoralists, a developing agriculture industry, on and offshore gas and oil industry, defence, tourism and improved standard of living (and economic opportunities) in Aboriginal communities.

All Shires within the Kimberley, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian economy would benefit from the Tanami Road being upgraded.

The upgrade of the Tanami Road will make a permanent route linking South-eastern Australia to Kimberly region, bridging the gap for indigenous people and provide the catalyst for exponential growth for mining, trade, rural industry, freight/logistics and tourism.

This supports the proposal that Tanami Road Upgrade is a viable nation building initiative.

Yours sincerely

Cathryn Hutton  
Chief Executive Officer

Central Desert Regional Council

Phone: 1300 360 605 Phone: (08) 8958 9500 Fax: (08) 8958 9501

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