



**Paul Henderson**  
CHIEF MINISTER

**08 December 2011**

## **New \$17 million bridge for Darwin now open**

A new \$17 million rail overpass fully opened to traffic for the first time today, allowing uninterrupted access to the growing East Arm industrial hub.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson and Senator Trish Crossin, representing Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, officially opened the new four lane, two way traffic bridge which will redirect up to 4000 heavy vehicles a day.

"This \$17 million bridge is part of our investment into infrastructure to support major projects," Mr Henderson said.

"The new bridge will provide a direct, uninterrupted access route for heavy vehicles to the expanding East Arm industrial hub.

"It will improve roads for Territory road users and significantly reduce wait times for heavy vehicles.

"The Territory is fast becoming the oil and gas hub of Australia and we're investing in key infrastructure projects to support future growth and investment.

"The bridge has been designed so it can be expanded to six traffic lanes in the future as the Territory grows.

"These works are part of the Territory Government's 2030 commitment to maintain high levels of investment to underpin long-term development and growth," Mr Henderson said.

Senator Crossin said the completion of Stage 3 of the Tiger Brennan Drive project is great news for commuters and the community.

"With the third stage now complete this is great news for Darwin, Palmerston and rural commuters, some 34,000 vehicles which are expected to use Tiger Brennan Drive every day," Senator Crossin said.

"This overall project forms a vital link between the East Arm Port and the Stuart Highway, providing more direct access to the port, allowing for an increase in the amount of goods arriving in and leaving Australia.

"Importantly, this is the largest road project ever delivered in the NT, with the Australian Government providing \$74 million and the NT Government \$43.3 million – a physical legacy of our shared commitment to nationally significant infrastructure.

"These works are an example of both the state and federal government working together to deliver a better road and rail network for busy motorists in and around the Darwin area," Senator Crossin said.

"These works are part of the Territory Government's 2030 commitment to maintain high levels of investment to underpin long-term development and growth," Mr Henderson said.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson said the Bridge will be officially named after the late Neville Walker, a Territorian who contributed to the Territory's construction industry.

"Neville Walker made a significant contribution to many major construction projects over decades - it's fitting that this structure which will be key to helping Darwin grow be named after someone who played a part in helping build the Territory."

The project was jointly funded by the Australian and Territory Government and created jobs for 11 Indigenous staff working across the \$127 million Tiger Brennan Drive project.

Prior to the construction of the \$17 million overpass, access to East Arm was intermittently affected by train movements.

Contact: HENDERSON Claire March 0403 937 849

CROSSIN: Carla Fernandes 0407 619 383

ALBANESE: Jeff Singleton 0410 476 890

#### **Related files:**

[Henderson.Crossin.081112.Berrimah Bridge.pdf](#) ( 239.09 kb )

