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Shire of **Ngaanyatjaraku**  
ON A JOURNEY

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## Improving road safety to the remote communities of Mantamaru and Papulankutja



*Caption: Papulankutja Road, aerial view of completed works*

The residents of the remote communities of Mantamaru and Papulankutja, service providers and tourists can enjoy improved, safer access with the recent completion of upgrade works to Papulankutja Road.

The 8.75km long project included widening of the road formation, strengthening of the pavement, improved roadside drainage and an improved driving surface.

Previously, Papulankutja Road provided a rough driving experience with extensive corrugations and loose material being prevalent.

The small and shallow roadside table drains and offshoot drains were unable to adequately collect and carry stormwater away from the road surface. Thus, accelerating the deterioration of the road.



*Caption: Papulankutja Road prior to start of works*



*Caption: Papulankutja Road, works in progress*

Completion of the works has resulted in a road that is more comfortable to drive and better able to cope with everyday traffic.

The stronger pavement will also see the road cope with heavier vehicles better than it could previously without damaging the road, thereby increasing the life of the road, reducing maintenance costs, and enhancing the Shire's sustainability.

To boost road safety for both communities and travellers, the road formation was widened to provide an adequate foundation for the improvements.

Table drains and off shoot drains were then cleared, widened, and reshaped to enable adequate displacement of water.

Selected gravels were added to strengthen the pavement and make it more durable to traffic.



*Caption: Papulankutja Road, works complete.*

This road upgrade is in line with the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku's ongoing plans to upgrade roads surrounding the remote communities on the Ngaanyatjarra lands. Federal Governments funds totalling almost \$765,000 were committed to this important project in the current financial year.

Shire President, Damian McLean commends the engineering team for continuing to make great progress in improving road safety in the Shire. "The improvements to the road surface should enhance road safety, driver comfort, and wear and tear on users' vehicles," he said.

"It will also benefit the Ngaanyatjarra people by giving better road access and therefore, creating more connected communities."

Cr McLean would also like to thank the Federal Government for providing funding for these important works.

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