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Shire of **Ngaanyatjarraku**  
ON A JOURNEY

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## Outback Way receives \$678 million to boost safety, economy, and connection.



*The WA section of the Outback Way is formed by the Great Central Road which stretches 872km from Laverton to the NT border. Image source: OHDC*

The Federal Government has announced funding of more than half a billion dollars to upgrade the Outback Way, a network of significant linking roads that extends 2,700km from Laverton in Western Australia to Winton in Queensland.

The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku is a member of the Outback Highway Development Council Inc (OHDC), which is made up of a group of councils dedicated to supporting the upgrade and sealing of the Outback Way.

The OHDC has successfully secured over \$400 million in funding to date from the Federal and State Government to re-align, upgrade and seal 800km of the Outback Way. The recently approved \$678 million in additional funding will help complete the upgrade of the remaining 900km of road. A further 20% matching commitment of \$130 million is expected to be made by State Governments.

The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku President, Damian McLean, said the road upgrades would provide major benefits to remote Aboriginal communities.

“A well-maintained road network is vital to our regional communities to ensure safe travelling, connected towns and to enhance overall quality of life through improved access to goods and services,” said Cr McLean.

“The project will provide employment and training opportunities for local people, and once completed, will help boost the region’s socioeconomic position and mobility,” he said.

“The sealing of the Outback Way will activate tourism and economic activities. Moreover, it will improve the connectivity across Australia, providing alternative routes and ensuring the continuity of supplies,” he added.

Cr Damian McLean said the upgrades have been a long time coming and we are proud of the collaborative efforts from the Federal, State and Local Governments. The Outback Way project is a national, bi-partisan project driven by local government and supported by WA, NT & QLD governments who have each contributed to the upgrades to date.

“The OHDC has been advocating for the Outback Way upgrades since 1997, with the aim to complete the project by 2025/26,” said Cr McLean.

“The project is currently 2 years ahead of scheduled which is a great result. It’s exciting to see our vision coming to life, and we look forward to seeing the project brought to completion,” he added.

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