



Welcome to the latest e-news update on the Tiger Brennan Drive project. If you have received this e-newsletter, you indicated you are interested in receiving updates on the project. For more information on the Tiger Brennan Drive Extension visit [www.nt.gov.au/tigerbrennandrive](http://www.nt.gov.au/tigerbrennandrive), telephone 1800 110 243 or email [inquiries@tigerbrennandrive.com.au](mailto:inquiries@tigerbrennandrive.com.au)

### Bridge art unveiled

The artwork to adorn all three Tiger Brennan Drive overpass bridges was recently unveiled. Chief Minister Paul Henderson, Construction Minister Gerry McCarthy, Member for Solomon Damien Hale and media recently visited the site at Pinelands to view some of the pieces.

Minister McCarthy said the designs, created by local Indigenous artists, far exceeded expectations. "The Territory's unique arts and culture is one of our greatest treasures and it's great that Larrakia art will be incorporated into this iconic landmark," he said. The artwork represents the six Top End seasons recognised by local Indigenous people. The bridges particularly focus on the build up.

To add another layer of complexity, the first bridge will reflect land themes, while the second bridge, closer to the ocean, will reflect the sea. Artists Kenny Reid, Peter Browne and James Gaston were commissioned to design the artworks. Each was briefed on the design and

*Clockwise from top right: land images of billy goat plum trees, green ants, pandanus palms, and sea images of mangoves, prawns and crabs have been designed into the land and sea themed bridges.*



scale of the images before they created more than 30 pieces using linocut printing techniques. Each artwork was digitally enlarged and impressed into the concrete wall panels of the bridges.



*Above: Workers from Macmahon testing the size of the designs on site.*



*Left: Chief Minister Paul Henderson, Minister for Construction Gerry McCarthy and Member for Solomon Damien Hale at the unveiling of the Tiger Brennan Drive urban artwork.*

*Below: The fabricated parapets in place on the Northbound bridge.*



# Construction Meets Culture

## The artistic approach to Tiger Brennan Drive

### Artists

Kenny Reid, Peter Brown and James Gastor were the three artists selected for the the project, with the assistance of Russel Lilford, Larrakia Nations' Art Coordinator. These artists were chosen as they were experienced with public artworks and had collaborated previously.

A number of elements within the structures of the proposed bridges were identified for possible artistic treatments. This varied from simple colour options to the opportunity for three dimensional and integrated art. The project team collaborated with Larrakia Nation to develop artworks which could be adapted for these treatments. The artists were briefed as to the theme of seasons, shown the scale of this project and how their artworks may be re-scaled to the massive walls and concrete barriers.

### Workshop

A workshop was held using lino printmaking techniques creating over 30 prints. The wet season "build up" and associated plant and animal life for that time of year in Darwin were chosen as the focus for the design.

The opportunity was recognised to include another layer of complexity. The first bridge as motorists head toward the city reflects theme of the land while the second bridge closer to Darwin reflects the sea. This celebrates the Larrakia as "saltwater people", and also the end of the long journey for drivers as they finally approach Darwin and, therefore, the sea.

### Application

The first application for these artworks is the parapet walls of the vehicle bridges. This is the visible surface you see as you cross under these bridges on the drive into Darwin from the rural area. The original artworks were digitally enlarged and using laser art moulds were created to incorporate them into the concrete parapets of these bridges, creating relief patterns in the concrete.

Six final artworks were chosen for the six different moulds -three on each bridge.

The three artworks on the bridge furthest from Darwin relate to the land during the build up season and incorporate:

- **GreenAnts** which are very active at this time of the year. These are shown climbing over the bridge.
- **The Billy Goat Plum tree** (*Terminalia ferdinandiana*) flowers at this time. This acts as a signal that it's a good time for catching prawns.
- **Pandanus** palms are good for making fish and prawn traps, so it's also important that these are being made at this time too.

The three artworks on the bridge closer to Darwin relate to the sea during the build up and incorporate:

- **Shrimps and prawns** it's a good time to catch these in the creeks and estuaries as signalled by the Billy Goat Plum flowering
- **Crabs**, it's also a good time to hunt for crabs.
- **Mangroves**, the very important fishing and gathering places for the Larrakia at this time of year.



*Above: A precast concrete parapet featuring crabs for the bridge closer to Darwin City.*

## Morale High Amongst Indigenous Workers

Morale is high amongst Indigenous workers on the Tiger Brennan Drive job site

Indigenous employee attendance rates are at an all-time high on the Tiger Brennan Drive job site. Mentor Support Co-ordinator for contractor Macmahon, Robbie Ahmat, said despite outside-of-work commitments, his team of nine were very punctual and had an attendance rate of 95 per cent.

"They love it," he said.

"Not many of them have family members who work, so these guys are great role models."

Labourer Frank Stokes agreed that the workers, whose roles vary from labourers to plant operators, were enjoying their work

"There are a good bunch of guys working here," he said.

Frank is helping build a rock wall feature underneath a pedestrian/cycle bridge, which is due for completion mid-May.

He said it was really rewarding to watch the area change from a pile of dirt to a large tiered feature.

Like all of Macmahon's Indigenous employees, Frank is doing a certificate III in Civil Construction.

To make things easier for his team, Robbie provides travel to and from work and assists with the opening of bank accounts and access to health and social services.

Another morale booster is after-work touch footy.

The team consists of Robbie, the site manager, the TBD Indigenous workers and family members.

Robbie said it was good to watch the team evolve from casual beginnings to a having a shot at the grand final.

"To start off with it was more social, but the more you play the more competitive you get," he said.

"It's so good to see the joy in their faces after they have a win.

"If you could take a photo it would be magic."

Robbie said a couple of the workers were shy around the site manager before they joined the team, but now they have given him a nickname and he is just another team mate ~~id~~ of work.

### As at 21 April 2010, the project has reached the following milestones:

- Concrete barriers on the Northbound bridge have been poured.
- Beams on the southbound bridge have been installed.
- The cycle bridge handrail is being installed.
- The first detour to allow tie-in works to proceed without disturbing traffic has opened.
- The inbound lanes between Tivendale Road and Berrimah Road have been sealed.
- Installation of street lights has commenced.



### Heading bush this weekend?

Know the condition of the road *before* you go.

The Northern Territory Government's Road Report is a free service run by the Department of Construction and Infrastructure. You can also report faults, hazardous conditions or obstacles on urban, rural and remote roads.

Road closures and restrictions are there for your safety.

Check road conditions or report a fault on freecall **1800 246 199** or visit **[www.roadreport.nt.gov.au](http://www.roadreport.nt.gov.au)**



## Upcoming Detour - Outbound Traffic to the Rural Area

From mid May, outbound traffic travelling to the rural area will detour through the new Tiger Brennan Drive interchange. More traffic will be directed through the interchange as the Stuart Highway is realigned to join with Tiger Brennan Drive and Roystonea Avenue.

Out bound traffic will flow through the new interchange to travel to the rural area (marked in red). Traffic travelling to and from Palmerston on the Stuart Highway (marked in green) will remain unchanged until later this year.



Want to know more about the urban artwork design or how the new interchange will work? Visit [www.nt.gov.au/tigerbrennandrive](http://www.nt.gov.au/tigerbrennandrive) to view presentations as well as image galleries and project overviews.