



CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

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Pooncarie Road Update

Road users are already seeing the benefits of the Pooncarie Road project which is currently underway in the Central Darling Shire.

With the Darling River reaching 9.6-metres at Menindee town gauge, previous unsealed sections of the road would have been inundated and the road closed. However, construction to date has kept the road opened.

The Pooncarie Road project will see 61 kilometres of road sealed between Menindee and Pooncarie. Work is progressing well although unprecedented rain has impacted the pavement in some areas. Recent dry weather has seen the three construction crews increase productivity, catching up time lost from previous rainfall events that delayed the project.

An additional five kilometres was completed and sealed recently bringing the stretch of sealed road to 33.6 kilometres.

The major culvert upgrade tender for Yampoola Crossing, approximately 30 kilometres south of Menindee, was recently awarded to Murray Constructions Pty Ltd for the installation of a 24m clear span precast bridge. Construction is expected to start mid 2023 subject to Darling River levels and DPI Fisheries approval. Council did purchase several precast culverts for this location through bulk order from a supplier. Contractor availability to install the culverts have been problematic. However, the precast bridge option will prove less expensive overall and be less restrictive than culverts. There are a number of options for the disposal of precast culverts, sourced for this upgrade. These will be presented to Council next year.

Local contractors will cease work for the Christmas period, recommencing in mid-January.

It is a \$39.6 million project with the Australian Government having committed \$27.1 million and the State government \$12.5 million for the works.

The project is expected to be completed by June 2024.

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