Crossing for Gascoyne River

A precast bridge beam system has been used to replace a low-level two-lane gravel crossing on the Gascoyne River in Carnarvon Shire, about 900km north of Perth.

Called the Bibbawarra Crossing Project, the roadway provides an alternative access to the north of the Gascoyne River. The crossing is used by plantation vehicles, local traffic, tourist traffic and the Aboriginal community at nearby Ingada Mission.

The Gascoyne is an ephemeral river and each time it flows it washes out the crossing. Last year it was washed out on several occasions for extended periods. When the crossing is closed, local traffic is forced to make a 34km detour.

To meet the construction deadlines and to reduce design and construction risk the shire chose the Rocla M-Lock, a proprietary precast beam system. Rocla fabricated the precast components at Main Roads WA's Gascoyne depot and on site at Bibbawarra Crossing.

This precast concrete bridge over Bibbawarra Crossing on the Gascoyne River in Western Australia was completed last month.

PHOTO: MAIN ROADS WA (THE PROJECT MANAGER)

The fully-precast M-Lock bridge system was originally developed by Rocla affiliate Choctaw Inc in the US about 50 years ago. It has been reengineered to comply with Australian standards and is designed as a fast and durable solution for single and multi-lane bridges with plank lengths ranging from 7m to 12m.

Bocol Constructions started construction on the crossing in January. It is now at the final stage of completion. ■