MEDIA RELEASE

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Newell Highway Corridor Strategy to build on existing upgrade works

NSW Minister for Roads and Freight Duncan Gay today announced a significant initiative to help fast-track historic upgrades to the Newell Highway.

“The Newell Highway is the road transport and freight ‘spine’ of country NSW, helping to support dozens of communities along its 1,060 kilometre corridor.

“It deserves a comprehensive strategy to build on numerous upgrade works already actioned by the NSW Government, including delivering extra overtaking lanes,” Minister Gay said.

The Newell Highway Corridor Strategy will act on recommendations from community and business groups – particularly the Newell Highway Taskforce – to ensure local knowledge and ‘know-how’ is at the heart of any future upgrade and maintenance decisions.

Minister Gay said the focus of the corridor strategy was for the ‘communities and businesses of the Newell’ to drive the process; not government transport or road agencies.

“If your community wants additional overtaking lanes to improve travel times and road safety – I want to hear about it.

“If your retail shops want a town bypass to take trucks off your main street – I want to hear about it.

“If your regional trucking companies need more rest areas along the Newell – I want to hear about it.

“Importantly, I want to see this local information and feedback included in the final strategy document.”

Since winning office in March 2011, the NSW Liberals & Nationals have delivered more than $11.4 billion for roads, bridges and culverts in rural and regional NSW, a historic level of funding.

This equates to an average of $3.8 billion each year compared to NSW Country Labor’s dismal 10-year average of just $2.4 billion.

Regional highways benefiting from this historic funding include (but not limited to) the Pacific, Princes, Great Western, Newell, Oxley, Mitchell, Cobb and Silver City.
The Newell Highway Corridor draft strategy is now open for public comment by visiting: www.transport.nsw.gov.au/publications/newell-highway-corridor-strategy
The NSW Government invites feedback and comments prior to the publication of a finalised document. To provide feedback or comments, please email: NewellHighwayStrategy@transport.nsw.gov.au

Submissions close at 5pm Friday, 20 June 2014.

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Some key reforms and upgrades completed along the Newell Highway Corridor by the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government since March 2011:

✓ Speed limit increased from 100km/h to 110km/h along most of the highway to facilitate safer overtaking of trucks by cars was completed in July 2011.
✓ $1.9 million to rebuild the highway surface in Peak Hill’s town centre completed in February 2012.
✓ $1.8 million for the upgrade of the Burraway Road and Newell Highway intersection at Brocklehurst (just north of Dubbo). Work completed in October 2013.
✓ $5.4 million roundabout project at Tocumwal completed in June 2013.
✓ $7 million for strengthening bitumen on the Newell Highway at Bellata north of Narrabri. Work was completed in December 2013.
✓ $1.5 million pavement reconstruction at Tichborne will be completed in May 2014 and Daroobalgie, between Forbes and Parkes was completed in January 2014.
✓ $4.7 million has been committed for the reconstruction of the highway at Girrawheen, north of Moree, due for completion in May 2014 (weather permitting).
✓ $3 million to rebuild the highway near the intersection of the Castlereagh Highway, north of Gilgandra will be completed in September 2014.
✓ $30 million in joint state and federal funding (i.e. $15 million each) to construct the second stage of the Moree town centre bypass will be completed in 2016.

Other significant upgrade works include 11 additional overtaking lanes, four of which have already been completed:

Overtaking lanes completed:
✓ Three between Narrabri and Moree.
✓ One between Coonabarabran and Narrabri.

Overtaking lanes under construction and expected completion date (weather permitting):
✓ Two between West Wyalong and Forbes – to be completed by June 2014.
✓ One between Jerilderie and Narrandera – to be completed by June 2014.
✓ Two between Moree and Boggabilla – northbound has been completed and open to traffic, southbound to be completed by the end of May 2014.

Overtaking lanes to be built in 2014-15:
✓ One between Jerilderie and Narrandera.
✓ One between Parkes and Peak Hill.