

DELIVERING THE HUNTER REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN ANNUAL UPDATE 2014-15

MINISTERS' MESSAGE

Regional NSW is the backbone of this state. Its varied geography, demographics, employment, industries and environment provides a great tapestry of opportunity and diversity.

At the core of keeping these communities moving is transport. Between December 2013 and April 2014, the NSW Government released ten *Regional Transport Plans*.

The *Plans* provide a blueprint for the future of transport in the ten regions, including the Hunter, and set a strategic direction for the delivery of transport infrastructure and services in the State's regions over the next 20 years.

Importantly, the *Plans* support the implementation of the *NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan* which sets the strategic framework to guide transport decision making in NSW.

This Government is committed to keeping the community informed of our progress and this Annual Update on the *Hunter Regional Transport Plan* highlights our major achievements in delivering key projects and services for the region in 2014-15.

In 2014-15 in the Hunter region we spent \$27.2 million through the Traffic Management and Road Safety Program, completed an interchange upgrade at Cardiff Station and introduced several new bus services.

In support of our commitment to align and integrate transport and land use planning in NSW, we have also been working closely with, and providing input to, the Department of Planning & Environment's *Regional Plans*, so that transport services and infrastructure is coordinated for our regions and centres that are growing strongly.

We know there is always more to do. We will continue to build on these achievements, ensuring that Hunter residents have access to high quality roads and efficient, safe and customer-focused public transport services well into the future.

Andrew Constance
Minister for Transport
and Infrastructure

Duncan Gay
Minister for Roads,
Maritime and Freight



IN THE HUNTER REGION WE:

Road Network Maintenance Program

- Spent \$52.6 million upgrading and maintaining 1,072 km of major roads in the region.
- Upgraded and maintained 218 bridges at a cost of \$18.3 million.
- Provided local councils with \$1.8 million to assist with road restoration after natural disaster damage and \$41.9 million for maintenance and improvement of their road network.

Traffic Management and Road Safety Program

- Spent \$27.2 million through the Traffic Management and Road Safety Program.
- Made journey reliability improvements at:
 - Rutherford on the New England Highway near Racecourse Road with road widening to four lanes.
 - Warners Bay at the intersection of Fairfax Road and The Esplanade with the installation of traffic lights.
- Undertook an inner Newcastle traffic study to identify future road upgrade priorities.
- Improved active transport with:
 - A new off road shared path along Griffith Road
 - New road cycle lanes at Tighes Hill along Industrial Drive
 - A new crossing at Maitland Road and Albert Street traffic lights, Wickham
 - New and upgraded crossings at Lambton Road and Turton Road traffic lights, Broadmeadow
 - A new pedestrian refuge along Northcott Drive, Kotara.
- Upgraded the Mangoola Road, Mangoola railway level crossing with flashing lights, bells and retro-reflective boom gates with high intensity (LED) lights.



- Spent \$9.9 million on road safety improvements at Koorainghat and Godfrey Hill on the Pacific Highway, at Ravensworth on the New England Highway, at Chisholm on Raymond Terrace Road, at Booragul on Toronto Road, at Freemans Waterhole on Freemans Drive, and along Putty Road.
- Made road freight safety and productivity improvements with the replacement of Aberdeen Bridge over Hunter River on the New England Highway.
- Released the new *Aboriginal Road Safety Action Plan 2014-2017* which provides more than \$5 million in a package of practical measures to help reduce the road toll in Aboriginal communities.
- Progressed planning for the installation of two countdown timers in Cessnock along Vincent Street at the Cooper and Hall Street intersections to improve pedestrian safety.

Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grant Scheme

- Granted Singleton Council \$127,971 for the refurbishment of bus shelters to Disability Discrimination Act compliance at 11 existing locations and the installation of three new bus stops in Singleton, Singleton Heights and Darlington.
- Granted Port Stephens Council \$122,500 to upgrade public transport infrastructure to Disability Discrimination Act compliance at One Mile, Boat Harbour, Port Stephens and Tanilba Bay.
- Granted Maitland City Council \$120,000 for a Disability Discrimination Act compliant pad rollout in East Maitland.
- Granted Lake Macquarie City Council \$108,000 to upgrade bus shelters in Edgeworth, Glendale, Cardiff and Argenton.
- Granted Great Lakes Shire Council with \$35,730 to upgrade a bus shelter at Tuncurry.



Transport Access Program

- Completed an interchange upgrade at Cardiff Station that included a kiss and ride area, upgrade of bus stops, improved safety access to the commuter car park from Main Road and the connection of new ramp to the upper and lower car parks.
- Delivered Park and Travel Safety Upgrades at Broadmeadow, Cardiff, East Maitland, Fassifern, Maitland, Morisset and Hamilton stations. These upgrades involved improved fencing, installation of CCTV cameras and barriers and improved lighting.
- Are planning for an interchange upgrade at Maitland that includes improvements to the commuter car park, taxi zone, new drop off and pick up area, and cycle facilities.
- Progressed works for an Easy Access Upgrade at Broadmeadow to include installation and construction of lifts, platform canopies, new footpaths, parking spaces, improved lighting, fencing and closed circuit cameras.
- Progressed planning for minor safety and security upgrades at Civic, Metford, Toronto and Wickham stations.



Transport Services

- Successfully introduced Opal electronic ticketing in the Hunter, specifically in the Newcastle Urban Area.
- Completed the \$5.8 million refresh program for the 14 Hunter carriages. The project provides customers on the Hunter Line with greater comfort, safety, cleanliness and reliability. Work carried out under the project included exterior painting, upgrades to internal fittings such as refurbished seating, repainting and new flooring, and engineering initiatives to improve reliability.
- Opened the Maitland Remote Customer Service Centre in June 2015, to improve safety and provide additional support for customers.

- Completed refurbishments at Maitland and Victoria St train stations, as part of the station refresh initiative resulting in cleaner, brighter and safer stations.
- Introduced a new bus route 189 Thornton station to Stockland Green Hills, serving the new residential estate in Chisholm with 100 new trips per week.
- Introduced up to 30 additional bus trips per week on route 263 Cameron Park to Charlestown via Cardiff.
- Added up to 34 additional bus trips per week on route 267 West Wallsend to University via Cardiff.
- Introduced additional bus trips per week on route 185 and route 268 bus services to Maitland and Stockland Glendale respectively.
- Started five new services on weekdays and three new services on Saturdays on new route 418 East Link Loop.
- Introduced four new services on weekdays and three new services on Saturday on new route 419 Queen Loop.
- Announced Hunter region buses will be retrofitted with fire suppression systems to boost customer safety.
- Commenced procurement for the next generation intercity train fleet for NSW. The contract includes the supply and maintenance of approximately 520 brand new carriages configured specifically for the NSW rail network and offering longer-distance train customers improved comfort and reliability.
- Recognised community transport in the State *Passenger Transport Act*, under reforms passed in NSW Parliament, meaning community transport providers will now be accredited and meet the same safety standards as public bus operators, providing greater protection for the community.



Transport
**MASTER
PLAN**

REGIONAL
TRANSPORT
PLAN

Transport Infrastructure

- Unveiled the new design for the transport interchange at Wickham, a key project that will link customers with trains, buses, taxis and create employment in Newcastle.
- Continued to support the revitalisation of Newcastle through planning for the introduction of a new modern light rail network through the city centre, reconnecting the city to the foreshore.
- Opened six pedestrian crossings over the rail line to reconnect Newcastle CBD to the foreshore.
- Rolled out the Freight Noise Attenuation Program as part of a suite of initiatives designed to minimise the impact of freight rail noise on residents.



NSW Boating Now

- Contributed over \$140,000 to support the delivery of two boating projects for the region.
- Improved Forster Harbour boat ramp, Forster.
- Released the *Tweed-Clarence Valley, Port Stephens-Hunter* and *Lake Macquarie-Tuggerah Lakes Regional Boating Plans* identifying priority boating safety, access and storage actions for the next five years.



Fixing Country Roads Program

Through the Fixing Country Roads Program, in 2014-15 we contributed:

- \$1,200,000 for two sections of Tocal Road requiring reconstruction:
 - Urban area – Paterson Road to Hilldale Drive, length of 720 m
 - Rural area – Mindarriba House to Eelah Road, Maitland, length of 1.4 km.
- \$350,000 for Starr's Crossing Bridge replacement with a new single lane concrete bridge on the same alignment and level, approximately 32 m long, 4.2 m wide and with a 68 tonne load design on Timor-Crawney Road/Jenkins Rd in the Upper Hunter.

Bridges for the Bush

- Progressed planning for the upgrade of the Brig O'Johnston Bridge at Clarence Town as part of the Bridges for the Bush program. This bridge is the oldest surviving timber truss bridge in NSW and is being rehabilitated to meet current standards.
- Progressed planning for the upgrade of the timber truss bridge over Glennies Creek at Middle Fall Brook. The upgrade will restore this heritage listed bridge as well as strengthen it to meet current vehicle load standards.

