

DELIVERING THE ILLAWARRA 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 Illawarra, 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 *Illawarra Regional Transport Plan* highlights our major achievements in delivering key projects and services for the region in 2014-15.

In 2014-15 in the Illawarra we spent \$14 million through the Traffic Management and Road Safety Program, delivered a brand new interchange at Shellharbour Junction and delivered the \$340 million Princes Highway upgrade at Gerringong.

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 Illawarra 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 ILLAWARRA REGION WE:

Road Network Maintenance Program

- Spent \$24.3 million upgrading and maintaining 387 km of major roads in the region.
- Upgraded and maintained 471 bridges at a cost of \$4.1 million.
- Provided local councils with \$5.9 million for maintenance and improvement of their road network.



Traffic Management and Road Safety Program

- Completed the \$340 million Princes Highway Gerringong Upgrade between Mt Pleasant and Toolijooa Road at Gerringong. The upgrade includes the duplication of a 7.5 km stretch of the Princes Highway to two lanes in each direction, two new interchanges with access to Gerringong and Gerroa, and the new Omega Bridge.
- Spent \$14 million through the Traffic Management and Road Safety Program.
- Made journey reliability improvements with closed circuit tv cameras installed to monitor traffic in Wollongong, Albion Park Rail and Nowra.
- Spent \$4.8 million making road safety improvements at Appin Road following a route safety review; at Bolong Road and Braidwood Road near Nowra; and with road widening on Moss Vale Road near Kangaroo Valley.
- Improved active transport facilities with:
 - The construction of shared paths or pedestrian crossings in Helensburgh, Coalcliff, Bulli, Wollongong, Koonawarra, Kiama, Vincentia and Ulladulla.
 - The installation of new traffic signals to aid pedestrians at Coledale.



- Improved bus priority with the relocation of a bus zone near Wollongong High School.
- 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.
- Are planning for the installation of countdown timers to improve pedestrian safety at the following locations:
 - Kinghorne and Junction Street intersection, Nowra
 - Berry and Junction Street intersection, Nowra
 - Keira and Crown Street intersection, Wollongong
 - Kembla and Crown Street intersection, Wollongong
 - Keira and Burelli Street intersection, Wollongong.

NSW Boating Now

- Contributed over \$95,000 to support the delivery of four boating projects for the region.
- Upgraded Greys Beach boat ramp, Nowra.
- Improved the car park at Aney Street boat ramp, Lake Conjola.
- Released the *Shoalhaven-Illawarra Regional Boating Plan* identifying priority boating safety, access and storage actions for the next five years.



Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grant Scheme

- Allocated \$39,698 to Shoalhaven City Council for the Stewart Place bus interchange upgrade.
- Awarded \$52,700 to Shoalhaven City Council for bus shelter installation and upgrades at Coolangatta, Sussex Inlet and Bawley Point.
- Granted Kiama Municipal Council \$18,000 for the upgrade of a bus shelter at Kiama.



Transport Access Program

- Delivered a brand new interchange at Shellharbour Junction comprising a station building with two platforms, a footbridge between platforms, CCTV cameras, lighting, lifts and stairs. A 105 space car park was also completed including four accessible parking spaces, two new bus bays, four kiss and ride spaces, a taxi zone and bicycle racks.
- Completed a new access road connecting Shellharbour Junction station to Piper Drive, off Dunmore Road, and a pedestrian and cyclist pathway connecting to Haddin Road, Flinders.
- Converted existing staff car parks at Port Kembla and Wollongong to commuter car park spaces creating six and 40 new spaces for customers respectively.
- Are planning for a new car park at Thirroul with approximately 150 parking spaces.
- Progressed planning to convert an existing staff car park to a commuter car park at Bomaderry.
- Progressed planning to install secure bicycle facilities at Dapto, Oak Flats and Wollongong stations.
- Are planning for the installation of additional lighting at the taxi rank area, Wollongong.
- Are planning for minor safety and security upgrade works at Fairy Meadow.



Transport Infrastructure

- 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.

Transport Services

- Completed refurbishments at Helensburgh and Bomaderry train stations, as part of the Refresh initiative resulting in cleaner, brighter and safer stations.
- Introduced new bus route 41 Dapto to University of Wollongong with 70 trips per week.
- Introduced new bus route 52 Flinders to Shellharbour Junction station with 55 trips per week.
- Extended bus route 701 to Bland Street Kiama.
- Are planning for the introduction of route 701 – Kiama – Werri Beach – Gerringong – Gerroa – Seven Mile Beach as two Saturday bus services and one additional Monday to Friday bus service.
- Committed to retro fitting Illawarra region buses 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.
- Completed restoration works at the heritage listed Thirroul Station. Conservation works included installation of termite protection, removal of non-significant intrusive elements such as aluminium security screens and the reinstating of the earlier colour scheme. This project was one of the largest of its kind undertaken in recent years.



*Photos courtesy of Roads and Maritime Services, NSW Trains and Transport for NSW.

