

DELIVERING THE MID NORTH COAST 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 Mid North Coast, 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 *Mid North Coast Regional Transport Plan* highlights our major achievements in delivering key projects and services for the region in 2014-15.

In 2014-15 in the Mid North Coast region we spent \$11.4 million through the Traffic Management and Road Safety Program, delivered the \$850 million Sapphire to Woolgoolga section of the Pacific Highway upgrade program and introduced several new bus services throughout the region.

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 Mid North Coast 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 MID NORTH COAST WE:

Road Network Maintenance Program

- Spent \$27.8 million upgrading and maintaining 722 km of major roads in the region.
- Upgraded and maintained 545 bridges in the region at a cost of \$11.7 million.
- Provided local councils with \$17.5 million to assist with road restoration after natural disaster damage and \$25.3 million to maintain and improve their road networks.



Traffic Management and Road Safety Program

- Completed the \$850 million Sapphire to Woolgoolga section of the Pacific Highway upgrade program. The project delivered a 25km four lane divided highway including 28 bridges and five new interchanges.
- Spent \$11.4 million through the Traffic Management and Road Safety Program.
- Made journey reliability improvements to realign the Cook Drive approach to the Pacific Highway at Coffs Harbour, North Boambee.
- Spent \$5.9 million improving road safety in Port Macquarie, Coramba and Mount Seaview.
- Improved cycleways in Coffs Harbour, Nambucca Heads, Macksville and Grafton.
- Upgraded railway level crossings at Summerland Way, Koolkhan and Rossglen Road, Rossglen with flashing lights, bells and retro-reflective boom gates with high intensity (LED) lights. The upgrades also included road works, new signage and line markings for both the rail and roadway.
- Made bus priority improvements on strategic corridors in Thora on Waterfall Way.
- 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.



Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grant Scheme

- Awarded \$54,000 to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council for upgrades to six bus shelters with improved seating and tactile ground surface indicators at Bonny Hills, Dunbogan, Lakewood, Laurieton, Kew and West Haven.



Transport Access Program

- Completed the construction of new bus and taxi rank, and the installation of new signage at Grafton Town.
- Constructed new footpaths and a waiting area at Wauchope.
- Upgraded a school bus interchange that includes road resurfacing and new bus signage near Grafton High School.
- Made improvements to footpath and road surfaces at Port Macquarie transport interchange.
- Constructed new footpaths at West Kempsey Racecourse.
- Improved four waiting areas at St Paul's College, Coffs Harbour.
- Are progressing interchange upgrade works for Coffs Harbour including reconfiguring a car park, a new pedestrian crossing, two new accessible parking spaces, improved signage and lighting, new CCTV security cameras, bike facilities, bus stop and taxi rank shelters including seating and new paving.



Transport Services

- Completed refurbishments at Grafton, Coffs Harbour and Taree train stations as part of the refresh initiative resulting in cleaner, brighter and safer stations.
- Introduced six new services on weekdays on bus route 351 Kempsey to South West Rocks.
- Added four extra services on weekdays on route 362 Boambee Town Service to Coffs Harbour.



- Introduced three additional services on weekdays on combined bus route service 362/363/364 Sawtell to Coffs Harbour
- Increased weekday services on bus route 362W Toormina-Boambee.
- Secured Gate Gourmet as the new catering company for NSW TrainLink who will provide regional customers with local food products and refreshed menus on board regional services.
- 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.

NSW Boating Now

- Contributed almost \$80,000 to support the delivery of three boating projects for the region.
- Upgraded Woolgoolga Beach boat ramp, in Woolgoolga.
- Awarded an additional \$1 million as a special grant for the Coffs Harbour boat ramp basin enlargement project.
- Released the *Tweed-Clarence Valley*, *Mid-North Coast* and *Taree-Great Lakes Regional Boating Plans* identifying priority boating safety, access and storage actions for the next five years.

Bridges for the Bush

- Obtained planning approval for the preferred option to replace the Sportsmans Creek Bridge at Lawrence. This bridge is being upgraded to better cater to the future needs of the surrounding area. This project will be delivered as part of the Bridges for the Bush program.



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