

# DELIVERING THE NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST 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 New England North West, 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 *New England North West Regional Transport Plan* highlights our major achievements in delivering key projects and services for the region in 2014-15.

In 2014-15 in the New England North West region we spent \$11.6 million through the Traffic Management and Road Safety Program, delivered an interchange upgrade at Tamworth and extended funding for the Armidale Youth Assist transport service until June 2016.

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.

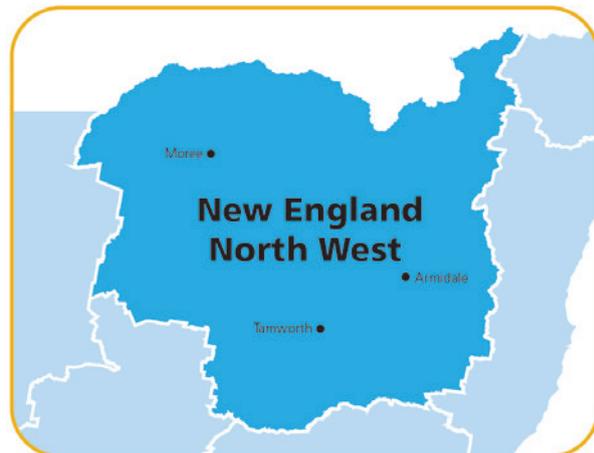
We know there is always more to do. We will continue to build on these achievements, ensuring that New England North West residents have access to high quality roads and efficient, safe and customer-focused public transport services well into the future.

### Andrew Constance

Minister for Transport  
and Infrastructure

### Duncan Gay

Minister for Roads,  
Maritime and Freight



## IN THE NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST REGION WE:

### Road Network Maintenance Program

- Spent \$68.4 million upgrading and maintaining 2083 km of major roads in the region.
- Upgraded and maintained 313 bridges at a cost of \$11.4 million.
- Provided local councils with \$2.2 million to assist with road restoration after natural disaster damage and \$25.4 million for maintenance and improvement of their road networks.



### Traffic Management and Road Safety Program

- Spent \$11.6 million through the Traffic Management and Road Safety Program.
- Made journey reliability improvements to the Oxley Highway at Dampier Street, Tamworth.
- Spent \$3.7 million on road safety improvements on the New England Highway, Tamworth and at the New England Highway at Willow Tree and Meadows Lane near Tamworth.
- Undertook active transport improvements in Tenterfield and Glen Innes central business districts, and extended the pedestrian/cycle path adjoining Manilla Road between Tribe Street and Johnson Street, Tamworth.
- Upgraded the railway level crossing at Warral Road, Warral with flashing lights, bells and retro-reflective boom gates with high intensity (LED) lights. The upgrade also included road works, new signage and line markings for both the rail and roadway.
- Completed the railway level crossing upgrade at Tapscott Road, Moree with flashing lights, bells and retro-reflective boom gates with high intensity (LED) lights.
- Released the final *Newell Highway Corridor Strategy* which will inform and support upgrades to one of regional NSW's busiest and most important road corridors.
- 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

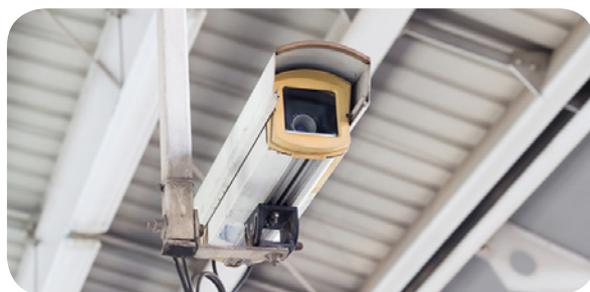
- Granted \$10,965 to Tamworth Regional Council for a bus J-pole installation in Tamworth.
- Provided Inverell Shire Council with grant funding to progress upgrades to bus shelters in Inverell.
- Allocated Gunnedah Shire Council \$17,858 for a new public bus shelter at Gunnedah.

## Transport Access Program

- Delivered an interchange upgrade at Tamworth that included bus service information and footpath improvement works.
- Are planning for an interchange upgrade at Tamworth that will include a new ramp at the main entrance, new wheelchair spaces on the platform and waiting area, improvement of disabled amenities, improved signage and electronic screens to assist with timetable information, new CCTV cameras and more bike racks.
- Progressed planning for an interchange upgrade at Armidale that will include new footpaths, cycle facilities and car parking.

## Transport Services

- Extended funding for the Armidale Youth Assist transport service until June 2016. The program runs bus services on Friday and Saturday nights offering Aboriginal youth free transport services home.
- 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.



## Transport Infrastructure

- Completed the final stage of the Moree Bypass which will significantly improve traffic flow and safety in Moree by moving heavy vehicles off local roads. The project also included intersection upgrades at the southern end of the bypass.



## NSW Boating Now

- Contributed over \$350,000 to support the delivery of three boating projects for the region.
- Upgraded Sepoy Knob boat ramp at Copeton Dam.
- Improved the car park at Quipolly Dam recreation area, Quirindi.



## Fixing Country Roads Program

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

- \$600,000 for pavement repairs and sealing of Rockvale Road, Armidale Dumaresq.
- \$300,000 for replacement of Tin Tot Bridge on Graman Road, Inverell.
- \$220,000 for the upgrade of existing intersections of Goddard Lane and Phoenix Street to accommodate access for B-triple vehicles in Tamworth Regional Local Government Area.
- \$1,500,000 for the Mount Lindesay Road upgrade between Legume and Woodenbong in Tenterfield Shire.
- \$160,000 for works on Tooloom Bridge to remove the load limit on the structure on Wallaby Creek, Tenterfield.
- \$705,000 for Abington Creek Bridge replacement on Thunderbolts Way, Uralla.
- \$500,000 for widening works on the Bergen Bridge in order to upgrade to higher mass limit standard and allow for two travelling lanes on Thunderbolts Way, Walcha.



## Bridges for the Bush

- Commenced construction in January 2015 on the new Tulladunna Bridge over the Namoi river on the Kamilaroi Highway. The new bridge will improve road freight productivity as well as safety of road users.
- Progressed the design development of the second road over rail bridge at Gunnedah with the completion of the Review of Environmental Factors for the proposed project.

