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 Southern, 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 Southern Regional Transport Plan highlights our major achievements in delivering key projects and services for the region in 2014-15.

In 2014-15 in the Southern region we spent over $20 million through the Traffic Management and Road Safety Program, delivered a new commuter car park at Moss Vale and opened a new purpose built bus interchange in Queanbeyan.

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 Southern 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

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IN THE SOUTHERN REGION WE:

Road Network Maintenance Program

- Spent $61 million upgrading and maintaining 1899 km of major roads in the region.
- Spent $21 million upgrading and maintain 901 bridges in the region.
- Provided local councils within the region $751,000 to assist with road restoration after natural disaster damage and $18.6 million for maintenance and improvement of their road networks.

Traffic Management and Road Safety Program

- Spent $20.1 million through the Traffic Management and Road Safety Program.
- Improved journey reliability:
  - On the Hume Highway near Sallys Corner Road by starting construction of a permanent variable message sign for northbound motorists.
  - At the intersection of Kangaloon Road and Hordens Road, East Bowral by providing space for through traffic to pass vehicles turning right.
- Spent $12.7 million on road safety improvement with:
  - The installation of a safety barrier on the Hume Highway
  - Construction of bridge screens starting on Sutton Road over the Federal Highway
  - Installation of a safety barrier on Wilsons Drive at Hilltop
  - Safety improvements on the Princes Highway near Eden, Bega and Termeil
  - A route safety review conducted for the Kings Highway.
- Completed improvements for pedestrians and cyclists with construction of shared paths or pedestrian crossing facilities in Moss Vale, Crookwell, Tuross Head, Narooma, Bermagui, Bodalla, Cooma, Queanbeyan and Bungendore.
• Progressed work on the installation of new traffic signals at Batemans Bay.

• Upgraded the Goondah Road, Bowning railway level crossing 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.

• 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.

**NSW Boating Now**

• Contributed over $375,000 to support the delivery of four boating projects for the region.

• Upgraded the Wonboyn boat ramp at Wonboy.

• Improved the car park at Wonboyn boat ramp, Wonboyn.

• Upgraded the Pines boat ramp and Log Bridge boat ramp at Blowering Reservoir, Tumut.

• Released the Far South Coast Regional Boating Plan identifying priority boating safety, access and storage actions for the next five years.

**Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grant Scheme**

• Granted Eurobodalla Shire Council $241,210 to progress stage 2 upgrades for DDA compliant public transport infrastructure in Batemans Bay, Catalina, Batehaven, Tomakin, Mossy Point, Broulee, Moruya, Surfside, Mogo, Tuross Head, Dalmeny, Narooma, Nelligen, Bodalla, Caseys Beach and Central Tilba.

• Awarded Yass Valley Council $8,038 for transport information boards in Yass town centre.
Transport Access Program

- Completed the conversion of the existing staff car park at Moss Vale to provide 15 extra commuter car parking spaces.
- Delivered a new commuter car park at Yass on Lead Street providing 34 car parking spaces for customers, including four accessible car parking spaces and a bicycle rack.
- Completed an upgrade at Mittagong station which included construction of a new ramp to platform one and new footpaths, and the installation of kiss and ride and bus stop zones, a bike rack, tactile surfacing, lighting and CCTV.
- Completed construction of a new bus interchange for regional school buses at Queanbeyan.
- Progressed an easy access upgrade at Yass Junction including a new ramp, footpaths, accessible parking spaces and upgrades to lighting.

Transport Services

- Completed refurbishments at Moss Vale and Goulburn train stations, as part of the refresh initiative resulting in cleaner, brighter and safer stations.
- Introduced an all-day ticket product to provide tourists with a hop on, hop off bus service in Batemans Bay.
- 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.
Fixing Country Roads Program
Through the Fixing Country Roads Program, in 2014-15 we contributed:

- $854,000 for the Lower Bendoc Road Pavement Rehabilitation Project including geotechnical investigations, pavement design and rehabilitation of 2.8 km of pavement, in Bombala.
- $247,500 for Parsonage Creek Bridge strengthening and widening in Bombala.
- $675,000 for replacement of Abercrombie River Bridge on Oberon Rd in the Upper Lachlan Shire.

Bridges for the Bush
- Commenced work in May 2015 to upgrade Bemboka Bridge at Morans Crossing on the Snowy Mountains Highway. Once complete the upgraded bridge will provide freight and safety improvements to motorists.
- Completed and opened to traffic the new Crookwell Bridge on Binda Road over the Crookwell River. The original timber truss bridge was replaced under the Bridges for the Bush initiative and the Timber Truss Road Bridges strategy.

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