MEDIA RELEASE

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FIXING LOCAL ROADS TO DRIVE BETTER JOURNEYS ACROSS THE REGIONS

Locals across 78 regional communities can look forward to a better trip on the roads they use every day thanks to an almost \$140 million investment from the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government's Fixing Local Roads program.

It takes the total number of projects funded under Fixing Local Roads to 577 and delivers on the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government's \$500 million commitment to upgrade the roads regional communities rely on to get to work, to school and home again.

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Sam Farraway said the first of the 78 projects being announced today was Pacific Drive in Port Macquarie with more projects to be revealed in the coming days.

"Councils have asked for help and we're responding to help them improve the roads you use every day and keep our great state moving forward," Mr Farraway said.

"The program is helping regional councils upgrade the local road network to better connect regional communities, farmers and freight operators and supporting thousands of local jobs during construction.

"The funding is going towards projects like sealing, resurfacing, road maintenance, drainage improvements and patching - small projects that make a big difference to the wellbeing of regional communities.

"It has delivered 277 projects, that are now open to traffic, benefitting every regional LGA in the state and supporting more than 6,000 jobs.

"Our regional communities are already seeing the benefits of this significant program with nearly 60 per cent of projects from the first three rounds now open and being used every day by farmers, locals, tourists and freight operators.

"Under the former Labor Government, our roads went to wrack and ruin, and councils were left to fend for themselves. The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government have built a strong economy so we can continue to invest in the infrastructure that matters, securing a brighter future for NSW.

"This funding builds on the \$500 million boost to help metropolitan and regional councils tackle the mammoth task of repairing the state's road network, following months of extreme weather events."