



**THE HON CATHERINE  
KING MP  
MINISTER FOR  
INFRASTRUCTURE,  
TRANSPORT, REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**



**THE HON JENNY  
AITCHISON MP  
NSW MINISTER FOR  
REGIONAL TRANSPORT  
AND ROADS**

**EMILY SUVAAL MLC  
DUTY MLC FOR THE  
UPPER HUNTER  
ELECTORATE**



**MAURICE COLLISON  
MAYOR OF UPPER  
HUNTER SHIRE**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FUNDING FLOWS FOR COULSONS CREEK UPGRADE**

The Australian Government is delivering on its promise of building a better future for the Hunter, committing more than \$38 million towards the Coulsons Creek Road Upgrade.

This commitment was made in the October 2022 Budget to help restore a vital community connection that has been significantly damaged by heavy rainfall and subsequent land slips.

The construction contract has been awarded to Daracon Group and will involve upgrading Coulsons Creek Road between Merriwa and Willow Tree Road in New South Wales.

These upgrades will improve overall travel times, increase freight efficiency, and boost safety for all road users.

The Australian Government committed \$38.6 million towards this project with the NSW Government contributing \$9.66 million.

#### **Quotes attributable to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Catherine King:**

“The Australian Government is committed to developing Australia’s regions and investing in local projects that create jobs, build opportunity, and unlock economic growth and productivity.

“Improving and upgrading important roads will help residents get home sooner and safer, and will help freight move more efficiently.

“Under our Government, Australian communities, like the Hunter, will be empowered to secure the support needed to grow local economies, improve liveability and enhance productivity – so no community is left behind.”

**Quotes attributable to NSW Regional Transport and Roads Minister Jenny Aitchison:**

“Coulsons Creek Road, also known as MR358, is a vital transport link, connecting the New England Highway to the Golden Highway.

“It’s great to see the Australian and NSW Governments working together to improve its capacity.

“This will not only create a safer and more efficient connection for the local community but provide a crucial link for the local freight industry, especially local livestock producers.

“Improving this road will bring long-lasting benefits to the freight industry and to the people of Merriwa and Willow Tree.”

**Quotes attributable to Labor’s spokesperson for Upper Hunter, Emily Suvaal MLC:**

“The people of the Upper Hunter have been waiting for some time for this upgrade to go ahead.

“It’s great to now see this vital project progressing that will bring many benefits to residents and businesses alike.

“Under a Minns Labor government Regional NSW is set to enjoy ongoing improvements to road infrastructure which will lead to safer travel, economic growth and agricultural development.”

**Quotes attributable to Upper Hunter Shire Mayor Maurice Collison:**

“This project will be a game-changer for the Upper Hunter region and crucial in enhancing New South Wales’ regional infrastructure.

“I also want to thank Catherine King for her commitment to regional Australia. This work, along with that from the New South Wales State Government exemplifies how collaboration across all tiers of government can significantly benefit our communities.

“Together, these partnerships underscore the importance of such projects to the broader community and the vital role they play in regional development.”

**15 DECEMBER 2023**

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