



Stephen Lawrence

Member of the Legislative Council



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Safety upgrade under way at Cundumbul on the Mitchell Highway

NSW Labor's Orange and Dubbo spokesperson Stephen Lawrence MLC has announced the second project in a major safety upgrade of the Mitchell Highway is getting under way ahead of schedule this week.

The Minns Labor Government is investing \$20 million in safety upgrades between Orange and Wellington through the Towards Zero Safer Roads Program.

Mr Lawrence said work on the first project started at Apsley in October, delivering improvements along a 270-metre stretch of highway including extending an existing culvert and widening the road shoulder.

"A combination of favourable weather and the efforts of our crews meant work at Apsley progressed more quickly than expected and the good news is that work on the second project at Cundumbul, which had been scheduled to start early next year, can now get under way this week," he said.

"Crews will be upgrading a 700-metre section of highway at Cundumbul to deliver a wider road shoulder and new audio tactile line marking (rumble strips).

"The safety work will also require some tree trimming in the road corridor to ensure no branches fall onto the newly-widened shoulders.

"Work will start on the northbound lane at Cundumbul on Wednesday 27 November and work on that side of the road is expected to be completed before Christmas.

"Work on the southbound lane will start when crews return in the new year and then safety barriers and signage will be installed at Apsley and Cundumbul, with both projects expected to be completed by late February 2025."

Mr Lawrence said the Mitchell Highway between Orange and Wellington carried thousands of locals, tourists and freight operators every day and these upgrades would help ensure they all made it to their destinations safely.

"Along with the work at Apsley and Cundumbul, the Mitchell Highway upgrades will include safety treatments just north of Molong and at Larras Lee in the Cabonne Shire and a fifth project at Neurea in the Dubbo Regional Council local government area," he said.

"All five projects have been identified as vital work to boost the efficiency and safety of the Mitchell Highway to the north of Orange." Crews at Cundumbul will be working between 7am and 4pm on weekdays from Wednesday 27 November with temporary traffic changes in place including single lane closures, intermittent stop/go and reduced speed limits of 40 km/h during work hours and 80km/h outside of work hours.

Motorists are advised to keep to the reduced speed limits, follow the directions of traffic controllers and signage, and allow up to five minutes extra travel time during the work. There will be no work carried out over Christmas and New Year so the speed limit will return to 100 km/h for that busy holiday period.