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NSW PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR DISASTER RECOVERY AND
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JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

9 May 2024

\$4.76 MILLION FOR A FLOOD RESILIENT MULLUMBIMBY ROAD

Major improvements are on the way for Mullumbimby Road, thanks to a \$4.76 million commitment from the Albanese and Minns Governments.

The funding will ensure the road is rebuilt stronger and is better able to withstand future weather events.

Mullumbimby Road, which is the major evacuation route for local residents, is currently very susceptible to flooding.

When completed, the project will reduce the impacts of future flooding while improving access for emergency services, council and utility services during and after flood events.

A grant of \$2.77 million from the jointly funded Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) will allow Byron Shire Council to improve drainage and reconstruct a section of Mullumbimby Road near Gulgan Road.

Council has also been allocated an additional \$1.99 million through the jointly funded DRFA for heavy patching on the road.

Federal Member for Richmond Justine Elliot, said the project was a vital investment in the future of the region.

“We know how important it is to keep communities connected during and after natural disasters.

“This upgrade to Mullumbimby Road is all about building back better after a disaster, by repairing the damage while also making sure the region is more prepared for severe weather events in the future.

“I’m pleased the Albanese Government’s joint investment with the Minns Government will help improve disaster resilience on this beautiful section of the NSW east coast.”

“It shows what can be achieved when the three levels of government work together, and I congratulate the Byron Shire Council for putting this project forward,” Justine Elliot said.

NSW Regional Roads and Transport Minister the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP said this upgrade will improve evacuation routes while reducing the number of times the road will be closed and providing residents and the many tourists who visit this region more time to prepare and evacuate if they need to during natural disasters.

“The NSW Labor Government is proud to be partnering with the Australian Labor Government and Byron Shire Council to deliver this much needed upgrade for the local community.

“It is great to hear that work will start soon and that our Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package is enabling the council to build the road back better so it is more well equipped to handle future disasters.”

NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery Janelle Saffin said close to \$2.8 million for this project is being provided through the betterment program, which was introduced into northern NSW following the devastating floods of 2022.

“This program changes the situation, and now allows roads to be built back to better withstand disasters and to improved standards.”

“It never made any sense to build back or repair a road or bridge as it had been instead of making it as durable as it possibly could be.

"I know local councils are as pleased as I am to be able to secure betterment funds to do the job well."

Byron Shire Council Mayor Michael Lyon said that Mullumbimby Road is very flood prone and there are times when the town is completely isolated.

"Mullumbimby Road is a key connection road and the primary emergency evacuation route for Mullumbimby residents," Mayor Lyon said.

"This funding will improve the capacity of Mullumbimby Road to cope with heavy rainfall, and therefore make it a more reliable and safer route for people to be able to leave town should they have to evacuate."

"The heavy patching will be done along the length of the road, serving to strengthen the surface to protect it from the wear and tear of the 13,500 vehicles that use that route every day."

Construction is expected to commence in December 2024.