Joint Media Statement
19 February 2015

Works start on Great Western Highway safety upgrades

WORKS on a $96 million Forty Bends and $70 million Hartley Valley Safety package have begun, forming part of a $250 million Great Western Highway – Katoomba to Lithgow upgrade.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss said the works will improve safety for all motorists using the highway.

“The Great Western Highway is an important transport link between Sydney and Bathurst,” Mr Truss said.

“The Australian Government is committed to delivering road safety upgrades, productivity improvements and economic growth, and these improvements deliver on that commitment.”

Federal Member for Calare John Cobb said the Australian Government was fully funding the Forty Bends component of the project.

“This part of the project will upgrade the existing two and three-lane undivided road to a full, three-lane divided highway,” Mr Cobb said.

“These improvements will also reduce the chance of black ice forming on the road, improve the road’s alignment and boost traffic efficiency for all motorists including freight operators.”

The second component of this project is the Hartley Valley Safety Works, which will receive $56 million from the Australian Government and $14 million from the New South Wales Government.

These works will upgrade several intersections and widen the road shoulders, which will allow traffic to enter and leave the highway safely and efficiently.

New South Wales Member for Bathurst Paul Toole said improving road safety will have wide-ranging benefits for the local community and all motorists.

“A major accident can cause havoc for motorists, but it can also cause untold grief for friends and families,” Mr Toole said.
“Not only will this project increase efficiency by minimising the impact of an accident on traffic, it will ensure lives aren’t lost unnecessarily.

“Although this project has created jobs for the local community, I think the greater benefit comes from the lives saved, and I am looking forward to seeing the works completed in late 2016.”

The Australian Government is contributing $200 million to the Great Western Highway – Katoomba to Lithgow package, with another $50 million being contributed by the New South Wales Government.

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<th>Media Contacts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For Mr Truss:</td>
<td>Brett Heffernan</td>
<td>0467 650 020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Mr Cobb:</td>
<td>Luke Schuyler</td>
<td>0438 300 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Mr Toole:</td>
<td>Electorate office</td>
<td>02 6332 1300</td>
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