Katrina and Daryl announce $70 million to complete full upgrade of Gocup Road

Local Nationals MP and Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson and Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Rural and Regional Affairs, Wagga Wagga MP Daryl Maguire today announced an historic $70 million to complete the full upgrade of Gocup Road.

“In last year’s state budget, the NSW Baird Government reserved $200 million for a Regional Freight Pinch Point and Safety Program which included major upgrades to Gocup Road,” Katrina said.

“Along with Daryl, I am delighted to announce $70 million will be invested over the next five years – starting with $8.6 million before the end of this financial year – to complete the full upgrade of Gocup Road.”

Mr Maguire said NSW Labor had always ‘talked big’ about Gocup Road but had never delivered a full upgrade – as always, Labor was full of promises and short on delivery.

“A fully upgraded Gocup Road, including extra climbing lanes and major widening works, will do wonders for regional transport and freight in south western NSW, notably between Tumut and Gundagai,” Mr Maguire said.

Gocup Road is the main link from Tumut and surrounding towns to the Hume Highway at Gundagai, which provides farmers and businesses with access to vital markets in Sydney and the Illawarra, including Port Kembla.

Mr Maguire said the $70 million was Restart NSW funds already ‘in the bank’, largely sourced from the successful port leases of Botany, Kembla and Newcastle.

“This funding is not dependent on the lease of ‘poles and wires’ – it’s ready to go right now and is a great example of how to recycle old government assets into vital new transport and freight infrastructure for country NSW.”

Katrina said the full upgrade would be particularly beneficial to the local timber industry, helping to service the Tumut Kraft Mill with modern freight trucks such as B-doubles to help reduce the number of truck movements on local roads.

“For 16 years, Labor sacrificed the timber industry to win green preference votes in Sydney – in stark comparison; the Baird Government supports infrastructure that supports forestry jobs.”

The full upgrade of Gocup Road will be completed in 2019.
The historic $70 million funding package builds on a series of major works initiated by the NSW Government since March 2011, including:

- $2.5 million widening of 1.5 kilometres at Meadow Creek, north of Tumut (completed)
- $2.1 million to improve road shoulders and alignment at Minjary Creek (completed)
- $5.5 million widening, realignment and intersection upgrades near the Gundagai abattoir (currently underway and due for completion by the end of 2015)

(ENDS)

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