21 September 2015

CHANGED TRAFFIC CONDITIONS FOR CONTROLLED BLASTING AT AUSTRAL PARK RD AND TINDALLS LANE

Parliamentary Secretary for the Illawarra and South Coast, and Member for Kiama Gareth Ward has advised local motorists across the region of changed traffic conditions next week near Austral Park Road and Tindalls Lane for controlled blasting as work progresses on the Foxground and Berry Bypass.

The controlled blasting is required to break up hard rock as part of work on the NSW Government’s $580 million upgrade of the Princes Highway between Toolijooa Road and Andersons Lane.

Mr Ward said that controlled blasting at Toolijooa Ridge has been ongoing since July 2015 and will be starting near Austral Park Road later this month and near Tindalls Lane in early October.

“The first blast near Austral Park Road will take place on Tuesday 29th September between 1pm and 3pm, weather permitting,” he said.

“Up to 20 blasts may be required at two locations near Austral Park Road with a maximum of two blasts daily within 10 minutes of each other. Blasts at this location are planned to be carried out weekly on Tuesdays with a single short delay to traffic.

“Motorists should be aware an exclusion zone will be set up around the blasting site which includes some sections of the Princes Highway, Thompsons Road and Austral Park Road.

“Controlled blasting will also be starting near Tindalls Lane on Thursday 1 October, weather permitting. Up to 10 blasts will take place on the first day and one further blast per day would be carried out on Thursdays between 1pm and 3pm.

“For the safety of workers and motorists, traffic will be stopped with delays of around 10 minutes as blasting is carried out at each location,” Mr Ward said.

“Nearby residents will be notified at least 48 hours before each controlled blast.

“Controlled blasting will also continue at Toolijooa Ridge on Thursdays. There have been a total of 12 blasts to date at Toolijooa Ridge which has moved an estimated 146,000 tonnes of rock to progress the bypass.

“It is expected all controlled blasting for the project will be complete by September next year, weather permitting.
“Road users are advised electronic message signs on the Princes Highway will display the most up to date information including changed times and dates of blasting work,” Mr Ward concluded.

For the latest traffic information, please visit www.livetraffic.com, download the Live Traffic App or call the Transport Management Centre on 132 701.

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