APPIN ROAD SAFETY UPGRADE COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Parliamentary Secretary for the Illawarra and South Coast Gareth Ward has today announced that work is now complete on a $6.35 million safety upgrade on Appin Road, four months ahead of schedule, providing a major boost for local motorists.

Mr Ward said that work to realign two bends for around 1.2 kilometres at Cataract started in January this year.

“Work was not due to be completed until early next year, but due to favourable working conditions resulting in increased productivity, and the project being managed so well by Roads and Maritime Services, this new section is now complete,” he said.

“There are around 10,000 motorists who use this section of Appin Road daily and with summer approaching and more people poised to use the road to and from the coast, completing this project well ahead of schedule is fantastic news.

“There is a crash history along this stretch, which is why this project was so important.

“This section of Appin Road was identified for an upgrade as part of a detailed safety review of Appin Road between Bulli Tops and Rosemeadow in 2014.

“Two crash clusters were identified on the two bends which have now been realigned.

“In the five years to June 2013 there were 18 crashes including two fatal crashes along this section of road. Since then there have been a further two fatal crashes.

“This project aims to reduce the number and severity of crashes, particularly head-on and run-off-road crashes at this location,” Mr Ward said.

“Work included removing the two bends and replacing them with one larger bend, installing a median safety barrier and providing wider road shoulders to give motorists whose vehicles leave the road more room to recover.
“Storm water drainage was also improved to provide a safer road surface by ensuring water can be quickly cleared.

“With multiple roadside memorials in this area, another important aspect of this project involved liaising with families and friends to relocate these memorials to allow work to progress.

“One large memorial was relocated during work and Roads and Maritime will contact families again to give them the opportunity to reinstate memorials at a new location along the upgraded section of Appin Road,” Mr Ward concluded.