Joint Media Statement

10 October 2014

Design contract awarded for Tourle Street Upgrade

WORK is one step closer on the Tourle Street Upgrade near Newcastle, with GHD awarded the contract to prepare key planning documentation and carry out the project’s detailed designs.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss said the Tourle Street upgrade would improve traffic flow and cater for increasing road use.

“About 33,000 vehicles already use this corridor each day, including more than 3,000 heavy vehicles,” Mr Truss said.

“This project is not only about ensuring our roads are safe and productive, it is also about ensuring this road can handle capacity increases as a result of urban growth in Port Stephens as well as the expansion of Newcastle Airport and the continuing industrial development at Kooragang Island.

“The Australian and New South Wales Governments have each committed $51.9 million to this $103.8 million project.”

New South Wales Minister for Roads and Freight Duncan Gay said Kooragang Island was home to a major industrial centre in the state, and part of the world’s largest coal export port.

“Tourle Street and Cormorant Road form the main corridors between Port of Newcastle, Newcastle Airport and Port Stephens,” Mr Gay said.

“Ensuring there is easy and safe access for freight between these hubs is incredibly important for the economic wellbeing of the region and the state.”

The preferred option for the upgrade was exhibited for comment in November last year.

Direct community feedback has informed the review of environmental factors (REF) and the concept design.

Detailed design is expected to be complete by mid next year, after which Roads and Maritime Services will invite tenders for major work to duplicate the road, including a new bridge over the Hunter River.

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