Monday, 14 March 2016

GLORY DAYS RETURN TO DALGETY BRIDGE

Minister for Roads Duncan Gay and Member for Monaro John Barilaro today officially marked the completion of major upgrades to Dalgety Bridge, which crosses the Snowy River.

Minister Gay said the bridge has been part of a critical road link for Dalgety residents and businesses for more than 130 years.

“Dalgety Bridge is an iconic structure, representing a time in Australian history when our economy rode on the sheep’s back – it deserved a $4.5 million makeover,” Minister Gay said.

“Old timbers forming the deck and piers of the bridge have been replaced, while the important heritage value and charm of the original 132-year-old structure has been preserved.”

Mr Barilaro said upgrading the 169-metre long bridge was a perfect example of the NSW Government’s fierce commitment to deliver new and improved road infrastructure for the Monaro.

“The old bridge was not only looking ‘worn out’ but was becoming increasingly expensive to maintain for the 200 vehicles travelling over it each day on the Snowy River Way,” Mr Barilaro said.

“The bridge is also located on an important freight route for graziers and livestock carriers, with past Labor governments only ever undertaking token patch work repairs.

“A major upgrade was necessary to ensure the bridge could continue to safely carry freight trucks carrying livestock to surrounding farms and regional sale yards.”

The $4.5 million upgrade works included:

✓ replacing the dilapidated deck and its spans and piers with new timber
✓ replacing each end of the bridge with concrete foundations covered with timber facade
✓ building new road approaches, including upgraded barriers on either end of the bridge

“I sincerely thank the Dalgety community for their patience and assistance during the two years of intense construction work needed to the restore the old bridge to its former glory.”

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