MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW BUDGET: BERRY TO BOMADERRY UPGRADE RECEIVES CONSTRUCTION MONEY

The NSW Government has called for Expressions of Interest to build the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade after more than $789 million was allocated to the Princes Highway over the next four years as part of NSW Budget 2017-18.

Roads Maritime and Freight Minister Melinda Pavey said $137 million would be invested in the Princes Highway in 2017/18 to continue delivering key upgrades for the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and South Coast.

“This is a vital project for communities along the Princes Highway and I’m proud to announce it will receive funding from the $2 billion Regional Road Freight Corridors program within Rebuilding NSW,” Mrs Pavey said.

“This is fantastic news for people of the Shoalhaven and South Coast with funding confirmed to complete the 10.5 kilometre upgrade between Berry and Bomaderry by 2021.”

“The final design has been completed for the upgrade which continues on from the Foxground and Berry bypass – expected to be completed this year – and the Gerringong upgrade which was opened to motorists in August 2015.”

Local members Gareth Ward (Kiama) and Shelley Hancock (South Coast) welcomed the package of investment in the Princes Highway.

“Once the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade is complete, safety and traffic efficiency will be improved with a minimum four-lane route complete between Sydney and Jervis Bay Road, south of Nowra,” Mr Ward said.

“The upgrade will create more than 300 jobs during the building phase, and a number of other indirect jobs in the community. This is fantastic news for our region.”

“Major work on the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade is expected to start early next year. When complete motorists’ safety will also be improved with crashes expected to be reduced thanks to a median barrier while travel times will improve by around 10 per cent,” Mrs Hancock said.

“At the same time the 12.5 kilometre Foxground and Berry bypass will improve travel times for motorists by seven minutes and reduce crashes in the area by an estimated 64 per cent when it is completed later this year.”

The 2017-18 NSW budget will also include funding to complete the new Burrill Lake bridge, progress the Dignams Creek upgrade and the Albion Park Rail bypass, and plan new bridges at Nowra and Batemans Bay.