NSW GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO IMPROVED SAFETY ALONG THE NEWELL HIGHWAY

Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight Melinda Pavey, was joined today by the Member for Dubbo Troy Grant to reinforce the NSW Governments commitment to driving the road toll on the Newell Highway to zero.

“The Newell Highway is the road and freight backbone of inland NSW between Queensland and Victoria. It’s the longest Highway in the state,” Mrs Pavey said.

“Any life lost on NSW roads is one too many, that’s why for the past six years we have invested over $500 million into upgrades and safety improvements for the Newell Highway.

“This work has helped us reduce the annual crash rate of the former government by an average of 50 per cent.”

Outside the Kintyre Country Living retirement village today, both Mrs Pavey and Mr Grant announced the completion of the $3 million upgrade to the Blackbutt Road intersection - One example of the NSW Governments commitment to safety on the Newell.

“This government is about investing in infrastructure to make NSW roads safer and this $3 million upgrade is part of that commitment,” she said.

“It’s not about restricting motorists by changing the speed limits on the Newell - and we have never had any plans to do this. What we are doing is improving infrastructure on the 1060 kilometre stretch of highway to make it safer and more efficient.”

Mr Grant said the Liberals & Nationals Government fast-tracked work on this upgrade in response to the rapid growth of the Kintyre area, and the tragic accident in 2015.

“As Dubbo expands, new construction projects pop up. The Kintyre area of Dubbo is growing, residents and visitors deserve the peace of mind of knowing they have a safer route onto a busy road,” Mr Grant said.
“Improving safety and access into and out of this part of Dubbo was the key driver for this project as traffic has been increasing steadily since the new retirement village opened.

“The completion of this vital project marks the delivery of $110 million invested in the Dubbo Country Regional Network since 2011.”

As part of the upgrade the Blackbutt rest area was also upgraded. The parking area was increased and the surface was sealed. The area is used by heavy vehicles and caravans and the upgrade will increase safety and access for vehicles using the facility.