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$820 million upgrade of the Pacific Highway opens

- Eighteen kilometres of the Oxley Highway to Kundabung section now open
- 78 per cent of the full 657-kilometre highway upgrade now four-lane divided road
- Motorists already saving close two hours in drive time between Hexham and the Queensland border

The upgrade of the Pacific Highway continues with today’s official opening of 18 kilometres of the 23-kilometre upgrade between the Oxley Highway and Kundabung.

Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester said the opening as a significant day for motorists, with the new upgrade set to save lives and change lives, as the full Pacific Highway upgrade progresses towards completion in 2020.

“The multi-billion dollar upgrade of the Pacific Highway is already saving lives - the number of fatalities has halved since the upgrade began. In addition, motorists are already saving close two hours in drive time between Hexham and the Queensland border,” Mr Chester said.

NSW Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight and NSW Member for Oxley Melinda Pavey said the Oxley Highway to Kundabung section involved building 23 bridges, including across the Hastings and Wilson rivers, and interchanges at Sancrox Road, Blackmans Point Road and Haydons Wharf Road.

“In early 2018, the remaining five kilometres of southbound road will open to become a four-lane divided road with a permanent speed limit of 110 km/h,” Mrs Pavey said.

Federal Member for Cowper Luke Hartsuyker said the 23-kilometre project was progressively opening to traffic in two stages, with some traffic changes and speed restrictions remaining in place for a few months.

“This morning’s opening moves the Pacific Highway upgrade another step closer to delivering a four-lane divided road between Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour. This will support local farmers and freight operators, while also ensuring traffic moves smoothly throughout the year,” Mr Hartsuyker said.

Federal Member for Lyne David Gillespie said 78 per cent of the overall 657-kilometre Pacific Highway upgrade, had now been completed between Hexham and the Queensland border.

“The new section of road bypasses the town of Telegraph Point and is the fourth major project to open since May last year. This project has delivered a significant economic boost to our region throughout construction and will continue to do so for many years to come,” Dr Gillespie said.
NSW Member for Port Macquarie Leslie Williams said the community had eagerly anticipated the upgrade of this section of the Pacific Highway.

“I am delighted, as I know the community will be, that yet another upgraded section of the Pacific Highway is open to motorists,” Mrs Williams said.