MILLIONS OF IMPROVEMENTS ON GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY - KELSO

Physical work is about to start on an upgrade of the Great Western Highway at Stockland Drive in Kelso, as part of the NSW Government commitment of $5 million to improve safety and traffic on this important route.

“I am extremely pleased that within two years I have been able to work with the Minister for Roads The Hon Duncan Gay and the RMS to see this project finally progress”

“Labor spoke about the need for 4 Lanes over 15 Years and did nothing but procrastinate over the issue”.

RMS have now spent $6 Million over the last financial year to come up with the final design for the 4 Lanes from Stockland Drive to the Gold Panner a distance of 2.4 km.

“This has involved environmental studies, traffic studies, consultations with residents and business”.

“Additionally, $5 Million is allocated in this Year’s Budget to commence the Early Works Package on this section of road. Work will include widening of the Stockland Drive intersection to provide a u-turn bay and improvements to drainage,” Mr Toole said.

“This work is expected to be completed within six weeks.

Work is scheduled to start on the 17th March to relocate utilities and several traffic light poles on the other side of the highway at Gilmour Street.”

Other work will include kerb realignment and road surface improvements over the Easter school holidays period to minimise traffic disruptions. This section is expected to be completed by early May, weather permitting.

“Work will then start on Stockland Drive and Gilmour Street traffic lights.”
All work is expected to be completed by June,” Mr Toole said.

The Stockland Drive work will be carried out on weekdays from 7am to 6pm and Saturday from 7am to 2pm.

These are major works that put us in the right step for a project that could be worth $60-$80 million.

“I will continue to lobby the Minister for further funding to ensure that our community and the wider Central West are beneficiaries of an upgrade to this long awaited section of road.”

Record levels of funding for country roads have been provided by the NSW Government including more than $435 million committed to continue upgrading the Great Western Highway to a four lane expressway east of Katoomba, $48 million for upgrades on the Bells Line of Road and last year $1.4 Million for the Raglan Creek Diversion Channel which addresses some of the flooding issues experienced in the past along the Highway.

**Media – Paul Toole – 0407 962 357**