PLANNING PROGRESSES FOR M1 MOTORWAY EXTENSION TO RAYMOND TERRACE

The M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace has taken a step forward with the tender for concept design and environmental assessment awarded to Jacobs Australia.

Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads Ray Williams said the NSW Government allocated $1 million this year to progress planning for the future extension of the Pacific Motorway to the Pacific Highway at Raymond Terrace, bypassing Heatherbrae and Hexham.

“The M1 Pacific Motorway, Pacific Highway and New England Highways are critical links in the national road network and among the busiest transport corridors in Australia,” Mr Williams said.

“The successful tenderer Jacobs Australia will review and refine the concept design and prepare the environmental impact statement for the missing link between the M1 Pacific Motorway and the Pacific Highway which involves a 15 kilometre four lane motorway with a new Hunter River crossing."

“A link between the M1 Pacific Motorway and the Pacific Highway would improve connectivity, improve traffic flow and provide more reliable travel times for motorists and freight operators.

“After completion of the $1.7 billion Hunter Expressway earlier this year, this project stands out as the next major road project needed to support the growth of the Hunter Region.

“Detailed technical investigations into traffic and environmental impacts will be carried out to refine the concept design for the M1 extension, which Roads and Maritime expects to display for community comment next year.

“Planning for the upgrade started in 2004 and a preferred route was reserved in the Newcastle and Port Stephens Local Environmental Plans in 2010,” Mr Williams said.

“Planning for the project is expected to be completed in 2017 with the timing of major work dependent on planning approval and funding availability.”
“The NSW Government will work with the community and stakeholders as planning progresses.”

For more information on the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace project visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au

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