Monday 13 July 2015

200 YEARS SINCE FIRST CROSSING:
FINAL STAGE OF GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY UPGRADE OPENS TO TRAFFIC

Parliamentary Secretary for Roads Andrew Gee announced the $75 million Great Western Highway at Bullaburra East opened to traffic today, completing the upgrade between Emu Plains and Katoomba.

“Almost 200 years after the first road crossing opened across the Blue Mountains in 1815, the final section of the Great Western Highway upgrade has opened to traffic,” Mr Gee said.

“The NSW Government is a government that gets on with the job and sees projects through from start to finish to deliver time saving, congestion busting road upgrades like this one.

“I want to particularly thank the previous Member for the Blue Mountains Roza Sage for all of her dedicated hard work to ensure this project got finished sooner.

“Since 2011, the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has invested more than $650 million (including another $87 million in the 2015-16 NSW Budget) to upgrade the Great Western Highway from Emu Plains all the way through to Bathurst.

“This is the largest investment in the highway in the history of the state, dwarfing Labor allocations when in office by 30 per cent.

“Motorists just need to look out their car windows to see the extent and quality of major upgrades on the Great Western Highway since 2011.

“The highway is a key freight and transport link between Sydney and central New South Wales and it will be industry, locals and visitors that will benefit from its four lanes that will improve safety and cut travel times.

“A centre median has been installed in the newest section between widened lanes with new dedicated turn lanes and intersections built to improve access.

“As upgraded sections on the Great Western Highway have been progressively opened, travel times have decreased and road safety and local access has improved.

“Last year the $85 million section from 400 metres west of Genevieve Road at Bullaburra to Tableland Road at Wentworth Falls opened and the $75 million section from Ridge Street at Lawson to 400 metres west of Genevieve Road at Bullaburra East opened today.

“Today, the Great Western Highway is unrecognisable from Cox's original road of the 1800s however retains the spirit of the original pioneers and will continue to deliver significant benefits to NSW and local communities for many years to come,” Mr Gee said.