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SAFETY IMPROVEMENT WORK STARTS ON NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAY NORTH OF BELFORD

Michael Johnsen MP, Member for Upper Hunter is pleased to announce that Roads and Maritime Services will start work on safety improvements on the New England Highway north of Belford next month after a recent road safety review of this section of the highway.

Mr. Johnsen said the safety review identified improvements to the southbound merge lane on the New England Highway south of the Golden Highway intersection.

“Since late 2013, one fatal crash two injury crashes have occurred near the north and southbound merges to the highway,” Mr. Johnsen said.

“Roads and Maritime will carry out safety improvements to relocate the merge north of the crest on the New England Highway to improve visibility and reduce traffic congestion which occurs during busy times as motorists form one lane.

“A reduced 80km/h speed limit will be installed along with queue warning signage to improve safety at the new merge location and to manage potential congestion.

“Line marking improvements will also be carried out to provide a wider median and increased clearance between opposing traffic near the merge.

“Roads and Maritime will provide the community with an update on the start of work in the coming weeks,” Mr. Johnsen said.

Mr. Johnsen said planning is progressing well on the proposal to upgrade the New England Highway and Golden Highway intersection which involves providing a new flyover and a four lane divided highway between Belford and the Golden Highway.

“Community feedback is currently being reviewed to finalise the concept design and environmental assessment.

“More information about the major upgrade will be available for community consultation in late 2016,” Mr. Johnsen said.

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