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SINGLETON RAILWAY UNDERPASS UPGRADE AND WIDENING ONE STEP CLOSER

Michael Johnsen MP today announced the detailed design contract has been awarded for the replacement of a rail bridge over the New England Highway at Singleton.

“Roads and Maritime Services and the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) are planning to replace the existing rail bridge at the Singleton railway underpass, locally referred to as Gowrie Gates,” Mr. Johnsen said.

“The New England Highway through Singleton is part of the National Land Transport Network and is the main link connecting Newcastle to the Upper Hunter.

“The Main North Railway Line bridges over the highway north of Singleton at Gowrie Gates and the current structure restrict access for overwidth vehicles.

“The new structure will improve road and rail freight access through the Hunter Valley.

“The project includes replacing the rail bridge to provide increased horizontal clearance for overwidth vehicles and minimise disruptions to trains on the main north line.

“ARTC has recently awarded the detailed design contract to SMEC Pty Ltd. Detailed design is expected to take around 10 months to complete.

“Work is expected to start mid next year and take up to 18 months to complete, weather permitting.

“The upgrade will provide for continued light and heavy vehicle access to Singleton. Heavy vehicle access will still be required when a future bypass of the town is built.

“The widening maintains the existing two travel lanes and provides wider sealed shoulders and safer facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

Mr. Johnsen said the NSW Government allocated $1.5 million this year to progress planning for the upgrade. For more information please visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au

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