



Michael Johnsen MP
NATIONALS MEMBER FOR UPPER HUNTER



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6 December 2016

PREFERRED ROUTE SELECTED FOR SINGLETON BYPASS

Michael Johnsen MP, Member for Upper Hunter today announced that the preferred option for the future New England Highway bypass of Singleton has now been identified.

Joining representatives from Singleton Council, the Singleton Chamber of Commerce, and a representative from Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), Mr Johnsen said the NSW Government committed \$92 million toward the upgrade project including \$1.5 million this financial year to continue planning.

“The preferred option involves building a new section of highway west of Singleton starting near Newington Lane and rejoining the New England Highway north of McDougalls Hill,” Mr Johnsen said.

“The route was selected after RMS displayed three options late last year and carried out technical investigations which included flood modelling.

“The selected route would provide the best functional, social and environmental outcomes for both our local community, and the project.”

Mr Johnsen said the upgrade involves building nine kilometres of new highway including a potential 3.1 kilometre bridge over the Main Northern Railway, Doughboy Hollow and Hunter River floodplains.

“Potential interchanges would be built to the north and south of Singleton and another at Putty Road to provide access to the town centre,” Mr Johnsen said.

“The newly selected route would also provide flood immunity along the new highway for a one in 20 year flood event.

“The preferred route corridor will be included in Singleton Council’s Local Environment Plan, reserving the land for future construction of the bypass.”

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Sue Moore, Mayor of Singleton said that today's announcement is a fantastic step forward in progressing work on the much-needed Singleton bypass.

"Now that we have this momentum, I'd like to see it quickly gather speed to the detailed design and construction phases," Mayor Moore said.

"Currently, the New England Highway bisects our township and the single-lane passage of one of the State's most important transport routes has proven over again not only to be inadequate, but a safety risk to motorists and pedestrians."

"It is vital the design for the bypass provides connectivity to Singleton for motorists to stop in, as well as reunite our community to build on the range of lifestyle offerings that already make Singleton a great place to live," Mayor Moore concluded.

Ruth Rogers, President of the Singleton Chamber of Commerce welcomed news that a preferred route for the Bypass was being put forward.

"This bypass will be of great benefit to our local Singleton community, our residents and our businesses," M/s Rogers said.

"As well as giving us increased access to the mines, the bypass will, critically, take congestion off George St in Singleton, and relieve the pressure of commuter and transport traffic off the streets of Singleton."

Mr Johnsen said timing for construction of the bypass has not been confirmed and would be subject to approval and funding availability.

"Given that the Nationals in Government in NSW have committed our 20% contribution, I am now calling on the Federal Government to commit its 80% contribution of the total funding required," Mr Johnsen said.

"Our local Singleton community will again be invited to provide feedback on the bypass at the concept design and environmental assessment stages," Mr Johnsen concluded.

Information on the preferred option is expected to be made at www.rms.nsw.gov.au.

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