Work will start this week on the critical $17 million realignment of the Newell Highway at Grong Grong.

Member for Cootamundra Katrina Hodgkinson said the NSW Government has provided $17 million for the project which Roads and Maritime Services will manage, which involves moving the Newell Highway west of Grong Grong to improve freight efficiency and road safety.

“This is part of the NSW Government’s commitment to improving freight efficiency and road safety on the Newell Highway and to deliver a road network that will also support the long term future and viability of the local area,” Katrina said.

“The project involves building a new two-lane 2.7 kilometre long section of highway, with turning lanes at intersections and access to the township of Grong Grong. The new road will have a speed limit of 110 km/h.

“The project will also include maintenance work on the existing highway before the road is returned to the Narrandera Shire Council.

“Georgiou Group Pty Ltd was selected in a competitive tender process as the successful contractor for the project which is expected to open to traffic in February 2018, weather permitting.

“Early work, including site set up, moving utilities and installing fencing, has been completed.

“Work will now start on the site of the new alignment, away from the existing highway, with environmental controls, tree removal and stripping of topsoil before the main earth work commences.”

Work is being carried out on weekdays between 7am and 6pm and Saturdays between 8am and 1pm, weather permitting.

Katrina said Roads and Maritime has worked with the community on the project, including seeking feedback on how to attract more passing traffic to the township once the realignment of the Newell Highway is completed.

“The Newell Highway provides an important link for freight moving between Queensland and Victoria and regional centres in western NSW. About 600 heavy
vehicles travel the Newell Highway through Grong Grong daily, with traffic expected to increase significantly in the next 15 years.”