INVESTIGATIONS START AS PART OF STAGE 1 OF M1 UPGRADE BETWEEN PICTON ROAD AND BULLI TOPS

Parliamentary Secretary for the Illawarra and South Coast Gareth Ward has today announced that investigations will start next week as part of planning work for the Stage 1 upgrade of the Princes Motorway between Picton Road and Bulli Tops.

Mr Ward said that the Australian and NSW Governments have allocated a combined $84 million for Stage 1 of the upgrade to improve safety and journey times for motorists between Picton Road and Bellambi Creek.

"Investigations including geotechnical and survey work will be carried out to help inform the motorway upgrade design," he said.

"Work will be carried out between 7am and 6pm on weekdays and between 8am and 1pm on Saturdays from Monday 27th February until Friday 7th April 2017, weather permitting.

"For the safety of workers and motorists, one southbound lane on the M1 Princes Motorway will be closed for a short time outside peak travel times near Cataract Creek, with traffic control and a reduced speed limit of 40km/h in place.

"This section of the M1 Princes Motorway carries around 37,000 vehicles per day, about 13 per cent of which are heavy vehicles.

"The steep alignment of the motorway can cause road safety issues particularly in several sections where heavy vehicles struggle to maintain speed.

"A preferred option has been developed for Stage 1 to improve motorists’ safety which involves widening and realigning the motorway to provide a six lane divided road between the Picton Road interchange and Bellambi Creek.

"The motorway upgrade will improve safety by separating slow and fast moving vehicles, reducing bends and improve travel times with the extra lanes.

"The upgrade will also improve freight productivity by improving access in and out of the Illawarra.

"A Review of Environmental Factors for the Stage 1 upgrade was on public
display and closed on 3rd February 2017 and we are now reviewing the feedback received,” Mr Ward concluded.