31 May 2017

WORK ON SINGLETON RAILWAY UNDERPASS
ANOTHER STEP CLOSER

Michael Johnsen MP, Member for Upper Hunter today announced that Roads and Maritime Services together with the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) are progressing plans for an upgrade of the Singleton railway underpass with expressions of interest to tender for the project now invited.

Mr Johnsen said the NSW Government allocated $1.5 million this financial year to invite construction tenders for the upgrade which is aimed at improving safety, road capacity and road and rail freight access through the Hunter Valley.

“The widened underpass would improve road and rail freight access through the Hunter Valley,” Mr Johnsen said.

“The New England Highway through Singleton is part of the National Land Transport Network and is the main arterial connection between Newcastle and the Upper Hunter.

“The Main Northern Railway Bridge, which crosses the highway north of Singleton at the Gowrie Gates, restricts access for wide load heavy vehicles.”

Mr Johnsen said together with ARTC, Roads and Maritime are planning to replace the rail bridge to provide increased horizontal clearance which will accommodate two travel lanes with wide sealed shoulders and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

“The upgrade would provide for continued light and heavy vehicle access to Singleton.” Mr Johnsen said.

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“The project involves building a new rail bridge across the New England Highway providing a minimum 5.3 metre vertical clearance, rebuilding and widening about 260 metres of the highway to provide two 3.5 metre lanes, providing three metre shoulders along the highway through this section to bring the road up to current road safety standards and relaying up to 200 metres of rail track.

“The completed project would improve access and travel times for over-dimension freight movements on the New England Highway, minimise disruptions to freight movements on the highway and the movement of bulk coal on the Main Northern Line and improve road safety for all road users.”

Mr Johnsen said ARTC has asked selected, suitably qualified and resourced contractors capable of delivering complex civil projects within the Rail Corridor to register their interest in tendering on the Gowrie Gate Bridge Replacement project.

“Work associated with this tender includes the replacement of the existing bridge, associated track work and upgrade of the New England Highway.

“ARTC will shortlist expressions of interest based on the market and tenderer capability before an invitation to tender on the associated works is invited.

“Prospective tenderers are required to complete an Expression of Interest document in full, including any required supporting documentation, and lodging it by 4pm on 15 June via email to SSripadi@artc.com.au quoting reference “Gowrie Gates Bridge Replacement EOI,” Mr Johnsen concluded.