30 June 2017

HAVE A SAY ON PROPOSED NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAY UPGRADE BETWEEN BELFORD AND THE GOLDEN HIGHWAY

Michael Johnsen MP, Member for Upper Hunter encourages the community to provide feedback on a proposal to upgrade the New England Highway between Belford and the Golden Highway.

Mr. Johnsen said the NSW Government has allocated $85 million under the Rebuilding NSW Plan including $4 million in 2016/17 and a further $5 million in 2017/18 to continue planning for the upgrade.

“This section of the highway is currently two lanes westbound and one lane eastbound and has a history of crashes, particularly near the Golden Highway intersection,” Mr. Johnsen said.

“The proposed work would improve traffic, travel times and safety for around 22,000 vehicles a day by providing two travel lanes in each direction and a flyover for vehicles turning right from the Golden Highway towards Maitland and Newcastle.

“In May 2015 the NSW Government announced a preferred option for the proposed upgrade.

“An environmental assessment has since been carried out to identify the potential impact of the proposal and activities to reduce them.”

Mr. Johnsen said investigations found the proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment with a range of environmental mitigation and management measures put in place.

The community and stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the proposal before comments close at 5pm on Friday 28 July.

“All feedback will be considered in finalising the proposal,” Mr. Johnsen said.

A project update and the proposal can be viewed on weekdays between 9am and 4.30pm until Friday 28 July at the Singleton Service NSW Centre at 158 John Street, Singleton.

The environmental assessment and more information are also available online at www.rms.work/B2G.