MEDIA RELEASE

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DELIVERING INFRASTRUCTURE: WORK STARTS ON UPGRADE OF BELLS LINE OF ROAD

Acting Premier Andrew Stoner and Minister for Roads and Ports Duncan Gay today marked the start of works on a $48 million upgrade to the Bells Line of Road.

Mr Stoner and Mr Gay visited Bilpin to turn the sod on the first project in the Corridor Improvement Program, a one kilometre eastbound overtaking lane on the Bells Line of Road west of Kurrajong Heights.

“This $48 million investment for the Bells Line of Road reflects the NSW Government’s commitment to rebuilding infrastructure in regional areas,” Mr Stoner said.

“After years of inaction at the hands of Labor, I am proud to say the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is delivering funding through Restart NSW and RMS in order to improve travel times and road safety on the Bells Line, starting with this overtaking lane west of Kurrajong Heights.

“Improving this vital road connection over the Great Dividing Range will not only make the road safer, it will also make it easier for farmers in the Central West to get their produce to market in Sydney,” he said.

The $48 million dollar program will include:
- seven proposed overtaking lanes between Kurrajong Heights and Mount Tomah and shoulder widening works to improve stopping safety
- new and extended turning lanes where appropriate
- installation of safety barriers appropriate to community needs
- minor curve realignments and straightening
- minor adjustments to identified intersections and driveways
- new rest areas and upgrades to existing rest areas
- urban landscape design and local environmental improvements
- improved drainage
- improved slope stability at identified locations

Minister Gay said Roads and Maritime Services would advise residents of upcoming work including vegetation removal, adjustments to utilities, sign installation and line marking.

“Work to build the overtaking lane between Patterson Ridge Fire Trail and Glenara Road at Kurrajong Heights aims to reduce this crash risk and is expected to be completed by October this year, weather permitting,” Minister Gay said.
“Further proposals from North Richmond to Lithgow will be developed over the next 12 months.

“The Bells Line of Road Corridor Improvement Program is the most significant investment on this strategic corridor in a generation and aims to benefit residents and visitors travelling between the Sydney metropolitan area and the central west of NSW.

“This $48 million program is additional to record levels of funding for country roads including more than $435 million committed to continue upgrading the Great Western Highway to a four lane expressway east of Katoomba, with other improvements between Katoomba and Bathurst, since April 2011,” Minister Gay said.

For more information on the Bells Line of Road Corridor Improvement Program visit: http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/sydney_region/outer_west_blue_mtns/bells_line_road_planning/

Media: Blake Hardy 0413 378 770 (Mr Stoner) / Marie Scoutas 0467 739 976 (Mr Gay)