MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTRACT FOR SCONE LEVEL CROSSING UPGRADE STUDY AWARDED

The contract to undertake a study of options to upgrade the New England Highway rail level crossing at Scone has been awarded to AECOM Australia Pty Ltd.

The Gillard Labor Government has provided the funds for the necessary planning work from the Regional Infrastructure Fund.

This work will explore how best to meet the increasing pressure on the level crossing from the expanding Hunter mining sector and will also consider the impacts of the rail level crossings on the local community.

Currently, lengthy coal trains moving through Scone's level crossings can cut the town in two, frustrating motorists and prompting concerns about accessibility and safety.

As part of the planning process, the RTA will work closely with the Upper Hunter Shire Council, the Australian Rail Track Corporation, and emergency services, property owners and residents to ensure we get the options right.

Issues raised by the community and stakeholders will be considered in developing options.

The RTA has already held two community information sessions concerning the study, which have allowed the RTA to explain the study terms of reference, and answer questions from the community.

So far, the RTA has received about 10 submissions and enquiries about the project and I encourage members of the community to have their say now.

The RTA will keep the community informed about future information sessions as the study develops.

The RTA presentation and Upper Hunter Shire Council presentation shown at the information sessions are available to view on the RTA website: www.rta.nsw.gov.au

The study is expected to be completed in 2012. For more information visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au

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