SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE FOR STANDEN DRIVE AT BRANXTON

Work on the first stage of safety improvements for Standen Drive, Branxton has now been completed.

The Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon, and the Nationals Duty MLC for Cessnock Trevor Khan said the work was part of the jointly funded $1.7 billion Hunter Expressway project, which will join the F3 Freeway with the existing New England Highway west of Black Creek, near Branxton.

“Community feedback was sought in May on a proposal to change the intersection of the New England Highway and Standen Drive,” Joel Fitzgibbon said.

“After considering the feedback, Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is implementing staged changes to the intersection of the New England Highway and Standen Drive to improve access and safety.

“RMS has made interim linemarking changes on the highway, near the intersection. These changes have moved the eastbound merge to the west.

“Motorists can now complete their merge before Standen Drive, so westbound motorists turning from the highway into Standen Drive will only cross one lane of traffic.

“Residents contacted RMS with concerns about traffic queuing on the New England Highway across Standen Drive during peak times.

“These recently completed linemarking changes will improve safety at the intersection as work continues to build the Hunter Expressway and permanent safety improvements can be implemented.

“RMS has finalised the design for stage two of the Standen Drive improvements and there will be no change to traffic movements currently available at Standen Drive as a result of these permanent safety improvements.
“A new 700 metre long access road will be built from Standen Drive to Black Creek, where it will join the existing New England Highway. This access road will allow Standen Drive residents to travel to Branxton without using the Hunter Expressway.

“U-turn facilities large enough for B-doubles will be installed on the New England Highway in both directions, for motorists travelling from Standen Drive and Rixs Road.

“These permanent safety improvements will be built in the later stages of the Hunter Expressway project and will be completed before the expressway opens in 2013,” Trevor Khan said.

The Federal Government is contributing $1.5 billion and the NSW Government a further $200 million towards the Hunter Expressway.

A letter including a plan of the final design has been distributed to local residents and is also available on the RMS website www.rms.nsw.gov.au