NEW BERRY BYPASS ALIGNMENT RELEASED FOR COMMENT

Member for Kiama Gareth Ward today announced revised alignment plans for the Berry bypass are now open for community comment.

“The latest design is the result of recommendations from a community review group set up by Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) in August after concerns were raised about the design of the highway to the north of Berry,” Mr Ward said.

“The revised bypass alignment will have reduced noise levels and visual impacts for Berry and preserves the viability of nearby farms,” he said.

“These improvements have been achieved by moving the road further north and lowering it at key locations,” Mr Ward said.

The key improvements in the revised alignment include:

• The Berry bridge has been moved further north and is about 95 metres further away from Berry as it crosses Woodhill Mountain Road;
• The Berry bridge has been lowered by up to 6.4 metres;
• The Berry bridge will not need noise barriers, reducing its visual impact;
• Along North Street the bypass has been moved further north, using the original road reserve as a 40 metre buffer between Alexander and Edward streets; and
• Along North Street the bypass has been lowered by up to two metres between Alexander Street and George Street, reducing the visual impacts of noise walls.

“Through the review process, a panel of independent industry experts actively worked with local community members on the design which significantly helped to achieve these design improvements,” Mr Ward said.

“The result is an improved design for Berry bridge and the northern interchange,” he said.

“As the next step in the process, a community meeting will be held on Tuesday 6 December 2011. This is an opportunity for the wider community to examine progress on the bypass,” Mr Ward said.

“A light supper will be provided from 6.30pm, with the meeting starting at 7pm at the Berry School of Arts, 19 Alexandra Street, Berry,” he said.
“Local residents are encouraged to attend the meeting to see the changes and provide any comment,” Mr Ward said.

Information is also available through the project website www.rta.nsw.gov.au/fbb or on any day from Thursday 1 December to Wednesday 14 December in the Berry project office, Broughton Court, Shop 3/113 Queen Street, Berry.

Information is being delivered to letterboxes in the coming days and residents can also register their comments by calling the project information line on 1800 506 976.

**Comments can be provided until 14 December 2011.**

“It is expected an announcement on the final alignment will be made before the end of the year,” Mr Ward said.