MEDIA RELEASE

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TENDER AWARDED FOR WORK ON PRINCES HWY UPGRADE

Member for Kiama Gareth Ward today said that Gerringong residents have been handed an early Christmas present with the awarding of the tender to upgrade the Princes Highway.

"Fulton Hogan has been selected as the successful tenderer to design and construct the 7.5 kilometre upgrade of the Princes Highway between Mt Pleasant and Toolijooa Road," Mr Ward announced today.

"This brings great cheer to the local community as it means we are one step closer to a safer, more durable highway," he said.

"Work on the $310 million upgrade is expected to start in the second half of next year, with completion expected in the first half of 2015, weather permitting," Mr Ward said.

"There are more presents under the tree, with negotiations between Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and Fulton Hogan providing for Fern Street to remain open during the work.

"Original plans had indicated Fern Street could be closed for up to 12 months due to the difficulties working with passing traffic, however this has now been solved," Mr Ward said.

"This is a big win for Gerringong, allowing this access to remain open during work is good news for locals and visitors.

"RMS will continue to work with the local community on the designs of the shared access roads, noise mitigation measures and recognition of Aboriginal heritage in the area," he said.

When completed the upgrade will generally follow the existing highway route and include:

- Two lanes in each direction with a median barrier;
- A 100 km/h speed limit across most of the upgrade;
- A new raised interchange at Belinda Street with a service road connecting to Willowvale Road;
- A new raised interchange at Rose Valley Road and service road connecting to Fern Street;
- A third lane for slow vehicles heading south from the Crooked River bridge to the top of the Gerringong Curves;
- A new bridge replacing the railway level crossing in Fern Street;
- Access roads in various locations to improve road safety for vehicles entering or leaving the highway;
- Improved flood immunity to withstand a one in 100 year flood event, including for Belinda Street;
- Preservation of two Moreton Bay fig trees at the Rose Valley interchange; and
- A new bus facility at the Gerringong railway station