DETAILED DESIGN STARTS ON UPGRADE OF PRINCES HIGHWAY, GERRINGONG

Member for Kiama Gareth Ward today announced the first phase of the detailed design of the Princes Highway upgrade at Gerringong is under way.

"The first step involves site investigations, including assessments of heritage items and some public and private buildings and properties," Mr Ward said.

"The site investigations will include geotechnical investigations, review of the existing drainage conditions, survey work and some minor excavations to identify the location of utilities such as gas, water, electricity and telecommunication lines.

"The investigations will be carried out by the successful tenderer Fulton Hogan which was awarded the contract in December last year," he said.

"Much of the work the community will see during the next few months will be in the road reserves, on private property and in some of the local streets along the highway.

"Fulton Hogan is currently negotiating access agreements with property owners affected by the site investigation work," Mr Ward said.

"The road shoulder and/or one lane may need to be closed for short periods while the work is carried out.

"The traffic changes will be managed to ensure the safety of motorists and workers," he said.

"Some fencing will also be installed around heritage sites and sensitive vegetation to ensure their protection from any damage during work.

"The community will be kept informed through the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) website, email and written notifications about the progress of the work," Mr Ward said.

"There will be opportunities for the community to provide ideas and comment on aspects of the detailed design during this phase of the project.

"I am very pleased work to get this upgrade under way is proceeding so quickly," Mr Ward said.
For further information please call the project information line toll-free on 1800 506 976 or follow the links from www.rms.nsw.gov.au or email the team at gerringongupgrade@fultonhogan.com.au or post Gerringong upgrade, Fulton Hogan, PO BOX 6099, Alexandria.

When completed, the 7.5 kilometre upgrade of the Princes Highway between Mount Pleasant and Toolijooa Road will include two new interchanges at Rose Valley Road and Belinda Street and provide a safer more efficient highway.

Access roads will also be built to accommodate the safety requirements of the local residents along the existing highway and ensure a safer highway for all.

The detailed design of the $310 million upgrade started in January with major work expected to start in the second half of this year.

Completion is expected in the first half of 2015, weather permitting.