MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 13 March 2012

NEWELL HIGHWAY UPGRADE SET TO BEGIN

The NSW Government today said vital work to construct three overtaking lanes along the Newell Highway between Narrabri and Moree was soon to begin.

“The NSW Government is committed to its election promise to provide $10 million for the construction of three overtaking lanes along the Newell Highway between Narrabri and Moree,” said Minister for Western NSW, Kevin Humphries and Member for Dubbo Troy Grant.

“Shadow Roads Minister Robert Furolo, who probably doesn’t even know where the Newell Highway is, recently showed how completely out of touch he is with the work that’s going on in Western NSW,” said Mr Humphries.

“While the recent floods and wet weather has delayed the start of this upgrade, I’m very pleased to announce that, weather permitting, work is expected to start on one of the three overtaking lanes in April,” Mr Humphries said.

“The work to be carried out seven kilometres south of Bellata will involve building a 1.5 kilometre overtaking lane and is expected to take about six weeks to complete.

“The RMS had planned to install all three overtaking lanes this year, however flooding in the area has diverted work crews and resources to flood restoration work.

“Funding already allocated for the work will be carried forward to the next financial year, ensuring we meet our commitment for increased overtaking opportunities on the Newell Highway.”

Member for Dubbo Troy Grant said the funding was yet another example of the NSW Government’s commitment to increasing safety and reducing accidents on the Newell Highway.

“For 16 years in Government, Labor did not know where the Newell Highway was,” Mr Grant said.

“We came into Government with a strong commitment to provide long-overdue funding for the repair and restoration of the Newell Highway, and that is what we have done.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government also last year delivered on a key election promise for motorists travelling on the Newell Highway by reinstating the 110km/h speed limit.

“In addition to the $5 million provided for overtaking lanes in this Budget, the NSW Government has committed to providing a further $5 million for three overtaking lanes to be constructed, one north of Parkes and two south of Forbes.”