MEDIA RELEASE

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DOUBLE TRAGEDY SPARKS KINGS HIGHWAY ROAD SAFETY REVIEW

Member for Monaro John Barilaro has announced that the NSW Government will instigate a detailed safety review of the Kings Highway after the tragic loss of life over the Canberra Day long weekend.

"Two crashes over the weekend have claimed the lives of five people and injured several others," Mr Barilaro said.

"There have been many safety improvements undertaken on the Kings Highway in recent years. However, this latest tragedy shows that more needs to be done to protect motorists."

In the five years to 2010 there were six fatal crashes resulting in seven lives lost. In 2009 a Queanbeyan to Bateman’s Bay Corridor Strategy was developed which aimed to prioritise safety improvements between Braidwood and Batemans Bay.

In the past year there were no fatalities on this section of road. Black Spot safety work had recently been completed near the location of Sunday's crash and road maintenance work was also planned for the highway near the location of Friday's crash.

"Despite recent improvements, it is clear that more needs to be done to address the safety of the Kings Highway," Mr Barilaro said.

"Drivers are human beings and are always at risk of making mistakes, it is the responsibility of Government to ensure that road infrastructure minimises these mistakes,"

"The NSW Government will be carrying out a detailed safety review of the highway as a priority."

"The review will take into account the findings of the NSW Police investigations of the two recent crashes"

"I encourage motorists to take extreme care when travelling on the Kings Highway, these latest tragedies have shown that a small slip in concentration or an error in judgment can lead to disaster."