MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 26 July 2012

Work starts to upgrade shared path on Hannell Street at Wickham

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) will today start safety improvements for cyclists and pedestrians crossing Hannell Street at Wickham.

Member for Newcastle, Tim Owen, said the NSW Government is providing $300,000 under the State Cycleways Program to upgrade the existing shared path crossing near Throsby Creek.

“This project will improve safety at this busy location and encourage more people to use the shared path,” Mr Owen said.

“This project has brought great relief to a number of community groups including the Newcastle Bike Ecology Centre, Newcastle Cycle Ways and the Tighes Hill Community Group who expressed concerns about the current safety of cyclists and pedestrians crossing four lanes of traffic along the busy road.

“I have engaged with these groups on a number of occasions and made representation to Newcastle City Council, Roads and Maritime Services (formally RTA) and the Minister for Roads, to achieve this outcome on their behalf,” Mr Owen said.

Traffic lights will be installed immediately north of the existing refuge to improve safety for both pedestrians and cyclists.

The new lights will operate to balance the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

“This crossing has been identified by Newcastle Council and local bicycle user groups as a critical point on the cycleway between Newcastle CBD and Newcastle University.

“The upgrade will be welcomed by all those who regularly use this path,” Mr Owen said.

Work will be carried out on Sunday to Thursday between 7pm and 6am, weather permitting. Some work on weekends will also be needed between 6am and 4pm.

“RMS is planning to activate the new traffic lights by the end of September, weather permitting,” Mr Owen said.

Motorists may experience minor delays during this work and a 40km/h speed limit will be enforced while work is carried out.

RMS thanks local cyclists for their input into this project and motorists for their patience while this important work is being carried out.

Be roadwork aware, slow down and take care – roadwork speed limits are enforceable.

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