MEDIA RELEASE

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WORK STARTS ON FINAL INTERSECTION UPGRADES BETWEEN THE F3 FREEWAY AND NEWCASTLE

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) started work this week on the final two key intersection upgrades as part of the F3 Freeway to Newcastle project.

Minister for the Hunter Michael Gallacher said the NSW Government provided $16 million to continue work on the intersection upgrades this financial year.

“RMS will be starting upgrades at the intersections of Douglas Street and Newcastle Road and Lake Road and Thomas Street at Wallsend,” Minister Gallacher said.

“The work at both intersections will include removing the existing roundabouts and installing traffic lights to better manage the traffic flow.

“Work will also include adjusting kerbs and medians to provide dedicated right turn lanes on all major approaches. The existing left turn lane from Thomas Street into Lake Road will be extended.

“Pedestrian crossings will be provided at the new traffic lights at the intersections, as well as new street lighting, footpaths and provisions for cyclists.

“Work will generally be carried out Monday to Friday between 7am and 6pm, weather permitting.

“Motorists should expect minor delays during work. Changed traffic conditions and a reduced speed limit will be in place.

“Six intersections are being upgraded on the 13 kilometer route between the F3 Freeway at Seahampton and Broadmeadow.

“Traffic along this route is expected to increase when the Hunter Expressway opens to traffic in late 2013 and these intersection upgrades will improve traffic flow and road safety.

“Two of the intersection upgrades are already complete, with the activation of traffic lights at Jesmond roundabout taking place in mid-July and work completed at the Thomas Street roundabout in June.

“Work is expected to be completed on all remaining intersections by mid-2013, weather permitting,” Minister Gallacher concluded.

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