BRIDGES FOR THE BUSH
Improving road safety and freight productivity in the Upper Hunter

Member for Upper Hunter George Souris today announced the Brig O’Johnston Bridge at Clarence Town and the bridge over the Glannies Creek at Middle Falbrook (north of Singleton) have been included in the NSW Government’s Bridges for the Bush infrastructure program.

Mr Souris said the work is part of the O’Farrell Government’s commitment to improving road safety and freight productivity by replacing or upgrading bridges over the next five years at 17 key locations in regional NSW.

“Our government is determined to make NSW number one again and that is why – even though times are tough – we are investing in infrastructure which will boost our economy by increasing productivity and creating jobs,” Mr Souris said.

“I’m delighted the State Infrastructure Strategy has recommended upgrading the Brig O’Johnston Bridge over the Williams River and the Middle Falbrook Bridge; I’m even more delighted Premier O’Farrell has given the green light to get work underway on both.

“In the Upper Hunter electorate, this will mean spending $14 million on the Brig O’Johnston Bridge and $10.5 million on the Middle Falbrook Bridge to enhance road safety and provide better access for freight trucks servicing the region’s agricultural industries.”

Bridges for the Bush is an initiative to help rebuild the NSW economy by investing in critical infrastructure to remove a number of significant freight pinch points and bottlenecks on the state road network.

NSW Roads and Ports Minister Duncan Gay said Bridges for the Bush will provide thousands of continuous kilometres for higher productivity vehicles such as B-doubles operating at higher mass limit; not to mention fixing a number of heritage-listed timber truss bridges to safer service levels.

“Bridges for the Bush is part of an integrated program of works over the next five years, including a $277 million investment to upgrade grain rail branch lines, to enhance freight productivity in country NSW,” Mr. Souris concluded.

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