Barry O’Farrell MP
Premier of NSW
Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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TIMETABLE SET FOR PRINCES HIGHWAY
FOXGROUND AND BERRY BYPASS

Premier Barry O’Farrell announced today the NSW Government will complete stage two of the Princes Highway upgrade by the 2017/18 financial year – subject to planning approval and the successful long term lease of Port Kembla and Port Botany.

Mr O’Farrell made the announcement in Wollongong at the 4th annual Regional Leaders Summit – hosted by Regional Development Australia Illawarra and the University of Wollongong.

“Half the nation’s road freight and three quarters of all interstate road freight journeys are on NSW roads and the Princes Highway is a key freight route,” Mr O’Farrell said.

“Stage two of the Princes Highway upgrade, the Foxground and Berry bypass, is the most significant transport infrastructure investment on the South Coast.

“The Foxground and Berry bypass will provide two lanes in each direction for an 11.6 kilometre stretch of the highway between Toolijooa Road and Schofields Lane.

“Today I can announce that we can now put a timeframe on the completion of this critical upgrade.

“Investment in infrastructure is central to the future prosperity and growth of the Illawarra.

“But I must stress that the completion of stage two of the Princes Highway upgrade by 2017/18 is contingent upon the completion of the ports transaction.

“If this does not occur, this essential road project will be delayed.

“The money unlocked from the Port Kembla and Port Botany leases will enable the entire Foxground and Berry bypass, worth over $500 million, to be delivered under one major contract providing benefits to road users and the local community at the earliest opportunity.

“We have called for expressions of interest for the long-term lease of Port Kembla, with the transaction expected to be completed in the first half of 2013.
“The long-term lease will enable much needed private sector involvement in Port Kembla to expand and develop jobs and economic activity.

“Port Kembla will continue to be one of the Illawarra’s major economic drivers under private operation and it will continue to support local employment.

The NSW Government has also made a submission to the Federal Government to fund upgrades on the Princes Highway between Gerringong and Nowra under the next stage of the Nation Building Program.

“With Commonwealth support the entire upgrade between Gerringong and Bomaderry, along with a replacement southbound bridge over the Shoalhaven River at Nowra, could be completed by 2019,” Mr O’Farrell said.

Kiama MP Gareth Ward said the announcement is great news for the region.

"When I was the candidate for Kiama, I announced we would build the Princes Highway Gerringong Upgrade (stage one) of the Princes Highway upgrade - at $310 million the largest ever single investment in highway’s history," Mr Ward said.

“To be able to join with the Premier in announcing a timetable to complete stage two is a tremendous result.

“Today's announcement is a double bonus for the Illawarra.

“If the Port Kembla and Port Botany transactions are successful we will be able to deliver stage two of the Princes Highway Gerringong to Bomaderry upgrade – Foxground and Berry Bypass – by 2017/18, as well as delivering an additional $100 million funding for new Illawarra infrastructure.”

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