George Souris, MP Member for Upper Hunter today announced Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has revised plans for safety improvements on the New England Highway at Whittingham.

“The State Government provided $4.3 million under the Road Toll Response Program to improve safety in response to the crash history on the highway,” Mr. Souris said.

“In the five years to 30 June 2010 there were twelve crashes on this section of road. Seven of the crashes resulted in serious injuries and six of them were fatalities.

“Following a public meeting RMS revised its original proposal and made a number of changes to better meet community expectations.

Under the new proposal wire rope safety barrier will be installed in a painted median from 1.5 to 2.7 kilometres north of the Golden Highway with a 50 metre gap to allow property access.

Instead of installing u turn bays at either end of the project, RMS will widen access to three properties between the Golden Highway and Mudies Creek and provide right turn bays to the properties.

In the next few weeks RMS is putting in updated sign posts and carrying out line marking on the New England Highway between Mudies Creek and Newington Lane.

The median wire rope safety barrier will be installed in early 2013, weather permitting,” Mr. Souris concluded.

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