MEDIA RELEASE
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NEWELL HIGHWAY GETS $500 MILLION BOOST

The Baird Government’s commitment to the long-awaited upgrade of the Newell Highway will deliver major improvements to the road and freight back bone of inland NSW – stretching from the Queensland to Victorian border.

NSW Premier Mike Baird, Deputy Premier and Dubbo MP Troy Grant and Roads Minister Duncan Gay today announced details of the $500 million Newell corridor upgrade.

“This upgrade will transform inland NSW – we want more jobs, better roads and lower freight costs for people living in inland NSW and this project delivers on all three counts,” Mr Baird said.

“Only the NSW Liberals & Nationals have a bold vision for NSW and the proven track record to deliver it.”

Mr Grant said Labor had neglected to upgrade the Newell for 16 years and inland regional communities and industries had suffered as a consequence.

“One of the first things The Nationals did when we were elected to government was raise the speed limit on the Newell back up to 110 km/hr and built overtaking lanes.

“Today’s commitment means communities right along the corridor will benefit from safer roads and improved freight costs,” Mr Grant said.

A re-elected NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will fund key improvements along the corridor, including:

- $95 million for an upgraded road surface between Narrabri and Bellata
- $90 million for an upgraded road surface north of Moree
- $85 million for an upgraded road surface between Mungle Back Creek and Boggabilla
- $50 million for the duplication of the L.H Ford Bridge at Dubbo (which connects the Dubbo CBD to the highway)
- $50 million for a truck bypass at Parkes
- $36 million for overtaking lanes in addition to the 12 delivered since 2011
- $33 million to better align the highway at Trewilga
- $12.5 million for further planning, including a truck bypass of Coonabarabran

Mr Gay said since 2011, the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government had invested a historic $233 million to upgrade and repair the Newell Highway.

“Whether you run a regional trucking business, a local grocery store or use the road to get to and from town – upgrades to the Newell will be good for you,” Mr Gay said.

“The bush has been crying out for better roads for years and we have delivered $15.4 billion for roads, bridges and culverts since 2011 and we’re continuing to invest in the future of Regional NSW.”

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