M5 PROPOSAL A BIG STEP FORWARD

Wednesday 18 November 2009: An expansion of the M5 Motorway will significantly improve the daily travel for more than 100,000 Sydney motorists and provide trucks with better access to Sydney’s growing ports.

Plans released by the NSW Government today to widen the M5 Motorway to three lanes each way, duplicate the M5 East Tunnel and build a new road linking the M5 Tunnel to the St Peter’s industrial area is welcome news for one of the most congested roads in Sydney.

The NRMA has been calling on the NSW Government to complete planning for major road projects so that funding could be sourced and work could begin once projects are ‘shovel’ ready. It is critical that the Government now begin steps to secure funding for the project.

NRMA President Wendy Machin said today’s announcement was exactly the type of infrastructure planning Sydney needed.

“Earlier this week the NSW Government renewed its commitment to build the south-west rail link and today we have the M5 overhaul – it’s essential to see an integrated approach to fixing Sydney’s transport problems,” Ms Machin said.

“The NRMA has been working hard to get the NSW Government to plan for major road projects.

“An M5 upgrade will make the trip for thousands of motorists and trucks faster and more reliable from the airport to south-west Sydney.

“By undertaking this thorough overview of what is needed to fix the M5, the NSW Government can now begin securing funding to get the job done.”

Ms Machin said the weekly fuel bill for many families should also be reduced as motorists should spend less time stuck in traffic.

“We know that building motorways with the capacity to meet demand not only improves traffic congestion, it is safer and better for the environment,” Ms Machin said.

“We hope today’s announcement is the start of a broad strategy by the NSW Government to upgrade Sydney’s missing transport links like the M4 and F6 Extensions, F3 to Sydney Orbital Link and northern beaches corridor.”

The NRMA will monitor progress of the M5 overhaul to ensure it meets deadline.

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