

MEDIA RELEASE

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ROADS, MARITIME AND FREIGHT BUDGET DELIVERS INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY FROM THE CITY TO THE BUSH

Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight Melinda Pavey today announced \$8.5 billion to continue building and improving our road, maritime and freight infrastructure, tackling congestion and reducing travel times, boosting freight productivity and making NSW roads and waterways safer.

Mrs Pavey said this Budget balances the NSW Government's commitments to people living in both regional and metropolitan areas of the state.

"We're tackling congestion in the city, building and upgrading roads in regional areas, and providing the critical freight infrastructure improvements the bush needs to support its growing businesses and communities," she said.

"This Budget is also focused on making our roads safer, whether they are in Bourke or Bankstown, Cooma or Camden - the lives of road users matter everywhere and that's why we're sharing the safety spend across the state.

"Tackling congestion is a focus of this Budget, with current estimates showing that traffic congestion costs us \$6.1 billion a year.

"As Sydney's population continues to grow, so will demands on our roads. The congestion busting and road building investment in this budget means people will spend more time with their families and less time in traffic jams."

Budget highlights for Roads, Maritime and Freight include:

- \$1.5 billion to continue the NSW and Australian Government funded Pacific Highway upgrade program including completing all projects between Port Macquarie and Glenugie near Grafton, continued construction between Glenugie and Ballina and planning for the future bypass of Coffs Harbour
- \$648 million for NSW and Australian Government funded road upgrades to support the new Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek, including completion of the first stage of both The Northern Road and Bringelly Road upgrades
- \$282 million to improve road safety in NSW, including \$19.2 million in federal funding, through safety-targeted road improvements, education and high visibility police enforcement

- \$264 million to reduce congestion on Sydney roads by addressing critical pinch points, and commencing the implementation of the Smart Motorways program on the M4 Motorway
- \$208 million for major road upgrades in regional New South Wales
- \$188 million for Central Coast roads, including widening works on the M1 Pacific Motorway and completion of intersection upgrades on Wyong Road
- \$154 million for increasing road freight safety and productivity, including continuing construction of the replacement Clarence River bridge at Tabulam
- \$153 million for road upgrades to support population and economic growth in Western Sydney, including completing the second stage of the Schofields Road upgrade in north west Sydney
- \$137 million for upgrades on the Princes Highway, including completing the Berry bypass and starting to build the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade
- \$137 million to continue upgrading the roads surrounding the new Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest
- \$132 million to continue planning and corridor preservation for future links on the Sydney Motorway Network including the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link
- \$117 million for major road upgrades in the Sydney Airport precinct
- \$79 million for upgrades on the New England Highway, including commencing construction of the Scone bypass
- \$58 million for upgrades of the Newell Highway, including completion of realignments at Grong Grong and Trewilga
- \$50 million for planning and delivery of freight rail infrastructure upgrades at key sites
- \$49 million for upgrades to Hunter roads
- \$77 million to improve maritime safety in NSW, with education programs, Boating Safety Officers and our Old 4 New lifejacket exchange program
- \$19 million for the country rail investments including preservation of the Lower Hunter Freight Corridor and the Fixing Country Rail pilot program

“This is a grassroots budget which sees us work with local communities, providing \$252 million in grants and subsidies to local councils,” Mrs Pavey said.

“These grants are included in a record \$1.8 billion for the maintenance of road, maritime and freight assets, including bridge rebuilding, pavement rehabilitation, traffic facilities maintenance, drainage upgrades, wharf maintenance and grants and subsidies to local councils.”

In the recent Commonwealth May budget, NSW was successful in securing \$2.28 billion in 2017-18 for capital road and rail infrastructure projects.

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