

MEDIA RELEASE

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ROADS, MARITIME AND FREIGHT DELIVERING A STRONGER MORE AFFORDABLE NSW

NSW Budget 2018 is delivering safer roads and easing cost of living pressures across the State by sealing country roads in Tibooburra, investing in the Coffs Harbour Bypass, slashing registration costs for caravanners and providing Toll Relief for drivers.

The NSW Government is also reducing travel times on main arterial routes such as King Georges Road, Henry Lawson Drive and Heathcote Road, as well as improving traffic flow on the M4 from Parramatta through to the Blue Mountains with the M4 Smart Motorway upgrade.

Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight Melinda Pavey said NSW Budget 2018 showcases our strong financial management with an overall investment of \$9.1 billion to continue building and improving our road, maritime and freight infrastructure.

“Never before has NSW seen such investment in bold infrastructure. It’s a clear sign of our economic strength in being able to deliver more jobs, improve efficiency and provide benefits to consumers at the till,” Mrs Pavey said.

“From the city to the bush, we’re sharing the wealth so all regions continue to thrive. We will seal all highways in the regions, making our roads safer and more resilient, while at the same time addressing pinch points in urban areas to improve traffic flow and ease congestion.

“We are also investing in our freight network through the fixing country rail and road initiatives, which allows the movement of more than \$200 billion worth of products such as whitegoods and grain throughout the State.

“We are delivering substantial benefits allowing commuters to spend less time in traffic and more time doing things they love.”

The 2018-19 NSW Budget commits additional funds for:

- **Road safety** - a \$600 million boost brings the total allocation to \$1.9 billion over five years to improve road safety in NSW, including targeted safety infrastructure upgrades as well as enhanced enforcement;
- **Heathcote Road** - \$173 million towards upgrading the Woronora River bridge and widening between Hammondville and Voyager Point;
- **Nowra Bridge** - \$155 million reserved to match Australian Government funding and enable a new Princes Highway bridge to be built across the Shoalhaven River;
- **Henry Lawson Drive** - \$100 million for widening between the M5 Motorway and Milperra Road, and;
- **Sealing Country Roads** – \$an additional \$40 million will allow initial sealing of the last two unsealed State Highways in NSW – the Cobb and Silver City Highways – to be completed by 2023.

Major funding allocations in 2018-19 include:

- **\$1.8 billion** for the new Westconnex motorway with the M4 East Tunnel opening in first half of 2019;
- **\$1.7 billion** for maintenance of road, maritime and freight assets;
- **\$1.2 billion** to continue the NSW and Australian Government funded Pacific Highway upgrade, including planning and preconstruction for the Coffs Harbour Bypass;
- **\$439 million** for the NSW and Australian Government funded Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan which is providing upgrades of key routes from Liverpool, Penrith and Campbelltown to access to the new Western Sydney Airport;
- **\$334 million** for established Sydney roads including upgrades to Heathcote Road, Henry Lawson Drive and King Georges Road;
- **\$281 million** for easing congestion at pinch points across Sydney including upgrades around Sydney airport and the M4 Smart Motorway;
- **\$244 million** for the Princes Highway, allowing construction to commence on the Albion Park Rail Bypass, Berry to Bomaderry upgrade and the replacement bridge at Batemans Bay;
- **\$178 million** to continue planning and preconstruction for the F6 extension Stage 1, Western Harbour Tunnel, Beaches Link and Sydney Gateway;
- **\$165 million** for Central Coast roads including widening the Pacific Motorway and upgrading the Empire Bay Drive intersection with The Scenic Road and Cochroane Street at Kincumber;
- **\$168 million** investment in maritime improvements across NSW for commercial and recreational fishers and boaters;
- **\$119 million** for road freight safety and productivity in regional New South Wales;

- **\$87 million** on Freight Rail infrastructure upgrades, including the Fixing Country Rail program designed to enhance rail infrastructure and eliminate connectivity constraints affecting regional freight services;
- **\$84 million** for the New England Highway including the Scone bypass and the Bolivia Hill upgrade between Glen Innes and Tenterfield;
- **\$81 million** for Bridges for the Bush, allowing construction of new bridges to commence at Gunnedah, Barrington and on Nerriga Road near Braidwood;
- **\$62 million** for the Newell Highway including fast tracking the delivery of overtaking lanes through an innovative contract approach and planning for the new Dubbo bridge, and;
- **\$55 million** for upgrades to Hunter roads, including completion of the intersection upgrade where the M1 Motorway meets John Renshaw Drive and Weakleys Drive.

“NSW Budget 2018 represents the largest dedicated investment in road safety, enabling us to deliver further road safety upgrades and initiatives to save lives and reduce serious injuries on our roads,” Mrs Pavey said.

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