



NSW MINISTER FOR ROADS
MICHAEL DALEY MP

NEWS RELEASE

GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY UPGRADE FROM LEURA TO KATOOMBA **OFFICIALLY OPENS**

Sunday 15 March 2009

Minister for Roads Michael Daley today officially opened the \$110 million upgrade of the Great Western Highway from Leura to Katoomba, designed to improve traffic flow and road safety for motorists travelling to and from NSW's central west.

As part of the official opening Minister Daley, State Member for the Blue Mountains Phil Koperberg, Federal Member for Macquarie Bob Debus and key community members toured the newly completed section on a double decker bus.

Mr Daley said the State Government funded project from Willow Park Avenue in Leura to Bowling Green Avenue, Katoomba was an important milestone in the highway upgrade and a win for local residents.

"Not only has this project created about 100 jobs for the local community, it will also have lasting benefits for the Blue Mountains community and motorists throughout NSW," he said.

"The highway has now been widened by two extra lanes over this three kilometre section, increasing capacity for the 35,000 cars that use this section of the highway every day.

"Improvements to safety have always been a priority for this project, particularly for the local community who live on either side of this busy highway.

"A number of intersections have been upgraded to separate local traffic from the highway, with safe new accesses to the towns to encourage visitors into this beautiful part of NSW.

"I would like to thank the local community for their extensive input into this project throughout the planning, design and construction stages.

"Local knowledge goes along way and it really shows in this project.

"I'd also like to thank the State Member for the Blue Mountains Phil Koperberg and the Federal Member for Macquarie Bob Debus for their tireless work in making sure the entire highway gets the funding assistance it needs," he said.

Mr Daley said the \$560 million Great Western Highway upgrade involves widening the highway to four lanes between Emu Plains and Katoomba and to three lanes from Katoomba to Mount Victoria in most sections.

"So far 15 sections have been completed, and work is now starting on two new sections.

“Work on highway widening at Lawson between Bass and Ridge Streets to four lanes started last month to improve safety and traffic efficiency through the town,” he said.

The \$220 million project is expected to be finished in early 2011, weather permitting, and includes the upgrade of local intersections and new pedestrian/cycle paths to improve local road safety.

Mr Daley also announced that the contract for the Wentworth Falls East section of the highway upgrade had been awarded to Fulton Hogan.

“This means that work on this section can now start next month, providing more jobs for the local community as the upgrade of the Great Western Highway continues to roll out,” he said.

“Work on the \$115 million Wentworth Falls section is due to finish in early 2012, and will include major improvements to local intersections as well as an off-road cycleway/footpath.

“Altogether, these projects will create or maintain over 500 full-time or part-time jobs,” Mr Daley said.

Mr Daley finished by saying he was extremely happy to be able to share these milestones with the community.

“This highway is of national importance, and we will continue working closely with the Federal Government to improve travel times and road safety for the people in Sydney’s west,” he said.

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