



NSW MINISTER FOR ROADS
MICHAEL DALEY MP

NEWS RELEASE

\$3.1 BILLION INVESTED IN RURAL AND REGIONAL NSW

Tuesday 16 June 2009

Minister for Roads Michael Daley today confirmed the NSW Government would be investing a massive \$3.1 billion on the state's rural and regional roads in the 2009-2010 budget.

Mr Daley said that \$3.1 billion or 71 per cent of this year's road's budget has been allocated to rural and regional projects.

"Roads are fundamental to regional economies which is why we've allocated almost three quarters of the entire roads budget to rural and regional NSW.

"In the current economic climate jobs are our number one priority, especially for people in the bush.

"That's why this year's \$3.1 billion budget is good news for regional roads, good news for regional economies and a huge victory for thousands of families who'll be supported by this investment," Mr Daley said.

Key funding includes:

- \$162 million to complete the duplication of the Hume Highway between the Sturt Highway and Albury;
- \$100 million to start the upgrade of the Pacific Highway from Sapphire to Woolgoolga and \$152 million to complete the upgrade between Coopernook and Herons Creek; and -
- \$145 million to start work on the bypasses at Woomargama and Tarcutta.

Mr Daley said more than \$1.26 billion will be spent on critical highways including the Pacific Highway, Princes Highway, Hume Highway and the Great Western Highway.

"Work on these four highways alone will support more than 3,500 direct jobs and thousands of families all the way to the northern, southern and western corners of the state.

"We all want to see our regions grow and thrive and this budget is a down-payment on the infrastructure that is needed to make it happen," he said.

Mr Daley said \$49.3 million would be invested in regional road safety initiatives.

"Deaths on country roads account for the vast majority of the state's road fatalities," he said.

"That's why we are heavily investing in initiatives that target the common causes of crashes including fatigue, speeding and drink-driving.

“This is in addition to the road safety benefits our \$1.8 billion major infrastructure project will deliver for the motorists of NSW,” Mr Daley said.

Funding for the Pacific Highway includes:

- \$170 million to continue work on the Ballina Bypass;
- \$100 million to start work on the upgrade from Sapphire to Woolgoolga;
- \$86 million to complete the upgrade from Moorland to Herons Creek;
- \$66 million to complete the upgrade from Coopernook to Moorland;
- \$60 million to continue work on the Bulahdelah bypass,
- \$34 million to complete the upgrade from Karuah to Bulahdelah; and -
- \$12 million to start work on the new Herons Creek to Stills Road northbound carriageway.

Funding for the Princes Highway includes:

- \$23 million to complete the realignment of the highway at Conjola Mountain;
- \$12 million to complete the Oak Flats to Dunmore upgrade to four lanes;
- \$10 million to continue construction of the upgrade at Lawrence Hargrave Drive;
- \$10 million for planning of the Gerringong to Bomaderry upgrade; and -
- \$4 million for planning for the highway upgrade from Kinghorne Street to Forest Road at South Nowra.

Funding for the Hume Highway includes:

- \$162 million to complete the current project to duplicate 67 km of the Hume Highway between the Sturt Highway and Albury;
- \$80 million to finalise planning and start work on the Woomargama Bypass;
- \$65 million to finalise planning and start work on the Tarcutta bypass;
- \$11 million for planning of the Holbrook Bypass;
- \$10.7 million for post construction work on the Sheahan Bridge at Gundagai; and -
- \$8.8 million to complete the Coolac Bypass.

Funding for the Great Western Highway includes:

- \$60 million to continue the highway upgrade at Lawson;
- \$32 million to continue the highway upgrade at Wentworth Falls East;
- \$12 million to continue the highway upgrade from Woodford to Hazelbrook;
- \$5 million for planning for the Mount Victoria to Lithgow upgrade
- \$5 million for planning to widen the highway from Bullaburra to Wentworth Falls;
- \$1 million for planning to widen the highway at Bullaburra.

The following regional and rural projects also feature in the 2009-10 roads budget:

- \$35 million to start work on the Alstonville Bypass;
- \$25 million to continue the Oxley Highway four lane upgrade from Wrights Road to the Pacific Highway;
- \$24 million to continue the upgrade of Main Road 92 between Nowra and Nerriga;
- \$21 million to finish the widening of the F3 to six lanes from Mt Colah to Cowan,
- \$6.5 million for the realignment of the New England Highway at Sunnyside.