



NSW MINISTER FOR ROADS
MICHAEL DALEY MP

NEWS RELEASE

NSW COUNCILS SET TO RECEIVE MORE ROAD FUNDING

Friday, 29th May 2009

Minister for Roads Michael Daley today said the Rees Government will boost road funding for local councils and reclassify a number of roads around NSW following an independent review of the NSW road network.

Mr Daley said the implementation of the NSW Road Classification Review would ensure roads throughout the state are better managed and funded in the future.

“Local communities change over the years, so it’s important to see how roads are being used so that we can better allocate funding and responsibility for them between governments.

“Changes in demographics and travel patterns means some roads have become busier and more important to communities, while some roads have become quieter

“That’s why we established this independent panel to ensure the state’s most important roads are getting the management and funding they deserve,” he said.

The review panel, chaired by former President of the NSW Shires Association and the Australian Local Government Association Mike Montgomery, has worked closely with local councils across NSW since 2003.

“The panel identified which roads should be classified on the State Road network, for which the RTA is responsible, and which should be on the Regional Road network, for which councils receive government assistance,” Mr Daley said.

“The Rees Government is committed to a cooperative, balanced and common-sense approach to caring for our roads, which is what this review will achieve,” he said.

The Rees Government has accepted the vast majority of the independent panel's recommendations for individual road reclassifications.

In addition, the government has agreed to a new State Road at West Wyalong in Bland Shire and decided that the Pacific Highway between Berowra and Calga, the Old Pacific Highway between Calga and the Kariong Interchange and the Cobb Highway between Ivanhoe and Wilcannia will remain State Roads.

“This review process has been about striking the right balance with local government and working together to deliver better roads for the people of NSW,” Mr Daley said.

“The government will provide \$10.5 million over three years and continue working hand-in-hand with local councils to support these changes.

“This is on top of the NSW Government’s investment of \$150 million to maintain regional roads and an extra \$60 million over four years to help replace old timber bridges.

“We know how important roads are to connecting towns and communities, as well as attracting investment and job opportunities.

“We’ve made real progress in improving our road network and we’ll keep working with local councils to ensure the good work continues,” he said.