



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon David Borger MP

Minister for Roads

Minister for Western Sydney

\$247 MILLION UPGRADE WILL MAKE THE HUME HIGHWAY DUAL CARRIAGEWAY FROM SYDNEY TO THE VICTORIAN BORDER

Thursday 3 March, 2011

Roads Minister David Borger today announced Abigroup has been awarded the contract to build the \$247 million Holbrook Bypass, the final stage of the Hume Highway upgrade.

This project will mean the whole highway will be dual carriageway by mid-2013.

Work on the final 9.5 kilometre upgrade will:

- Complete a four-lane divided highway between Sydney and Melbourne;
- Provide grade-separated interchanges to the north and south of Holbrook for easy access between the highway and the town; and,
- Include twin bridges over both Culcairn Road, and Ten Mile Creek.

Only 21km of the highway remains to be duplicated following the opening of 78 kilometres of four-lane highway between August and December 2009.

The bypasses of Tarcutta and Woomargama are currently under construction and due to open to traffic by the end of this year, while the Holbrook upgrade is expected to be completed by mid-2013.

In recent years the following projects have been funded by the Australian Government and delivered by the NSW Government:

- Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway - March 2007;
- Sheahan Bridge duplication at Gundagai - May 2009;
- Coolac bypass - August 2009; and,
- Southern Hume Highway duplication - December 2009.

Once the Holbrook Bypass is completed, drivers will be able to travel the entire 1,380 kilometres from Queensland to Victoria on major highways.

The announcement was made today by NSW Roads Minister David Borger and Federal Infrastructure Minister Anthony Albanese.

"This new bypass will improve safety for local residents by removing many cars and trucks from the current route through Holbrook," Mr Albanese said.

"It will also improve the efficiency of freight along the main road transport corridor between Sydney and Melbourne.

"The bypass will join the existing four lane highway to the north and south of Holbrook," Mr Albanese said.

Mr Borger welcomed the announcement:

"By completing dual carriageway all the way between Sydney and the Victorian border we will improve journey times between New South Wales and Victoria and improve road safety for the thousands of people that use this route each day.

"This is a significant accomplishment and shows what can be achieved when Governments work together," Mr Borger said.

He said coupled with work on the Pacific Highway, NSW is expected to have dual carriageway linking Victoria, Sydney and Queensland by 2016.

In this year's budget alone, there is \$871 million for work on the Pacific Highway, benefiting both motorists and heavy vehicle operators.

"Work to upgrade the Pacific Highway to a four-lane divided road between Hexham and the Queensland border is moving ahead in strides," Mr Borger said.

"Already 332 kilometres of the Pacific Highway is dual carriageway, divided road, and a further 70 kilometres of dual carriageway is under construction.

"Major milestones were reached this week on two projects along the 677 kilometre length of the highway, at Bulahdelah and Devils Pulpit.

"At Bulahdelah 8.6 kilometres of four-lane divided road is being built to connect the Bulahdelah to Coo롱oolook and Karuah to Bulahdelah sections.

"Tenders have been called for construction of the upgrade of the Pacific Highway at Devils Pulpit, 66 kilometres north of Grafton.

"The 7.3km upgrade at Devils Pulpit will improve road safety.

"Major work on the Holbrook bypass is expected to start in April 2011, weather permitting.

"This is a great example of how the Federal and NSW Labor Governments are working together to build nationally-important roads," Mr Borger said.

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