



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
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MEDIA RELEASE

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HUME HIGHWAY UPGRADE FULLY APPROVED

The NSW Government has today given planning approval for the 9.5 kilometre Holbrook Bypass.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said this is the last step in the Hume Highway Upgrade Program, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments.

“Once the bypass is completed, the Hume Highway will be a continuous four-lane highway from Sydney to Melbourne, improving safety for motorists,” the Minister said.

“With more than 20 million tonnes of road freight travelling on the Hume Highway every year, it is one Australia’s busiest transport routes.

“Up to 6,000 heavy vehicles are expected to use it by 2025.”

The Hume currently passes through Holbrook which has the only set of traffic signals remaining on the highway between the Sydney Orbital and Melbourne’s Western Ring Road.

The new bypass will run west of the existing Hume Highway, starting half a kilometre north of Holbrook and finish approximately two kilometres south of the town.

A total of 63 strict conditions have been imposed following public exhibition and assessment of the environmental impacts of the project.

They include:

- Ecological enhancement measures, including Box-Gum Woodland offsets integrated into a Biodiversity Strategy for the entire Hume Highway Upgrade Program;
- Safe crossing points for native fauna;
- Protection of significant Aboriginal heritage items along the project route;
- Traffic noise mitigation measures, including low-noise pavements and acoustic walls. These measures to be reviewed in early stages of operation and increased if acceptable noise outcomes are not met; and
- Development and implementation of measures, in conjunction with Greater Hume Shire Council, to minimise impact on local businesses.

Holbrook is the last in a series of bypasses in the highway upgrade, with similar approvals granted by the Minister for Woomargama and Tarcutta earlier this year.