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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOXGROUND HIGHWAY UPGRADE AND BERRY BYPASS A STEP CLOSER

The proposed upgrading of the Princes Highway at Foxground and Berry Bypass are a step closer after the NSW Government declared it a major project of regional significance.

The project will now be considered under the Government's Part 3A assessment system for major projects.

NSW Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, made the announcement today during a visit to Berry with Member for Kiama, Matt Brown.

"This means, subject to the completion of the project environmental assessment, community input and consideration by the Department of Planning, approval is expected in around 18 months," the Minister said.

The Princes Highway is the main north-south road corridor between Sydney, the Illawarra, south coast through to north-eastern Victoria.

A total of \$10 million was committed by the Government in the 2010/11 State Budget towards planning a four-lane upgrade of the Princes Highway between Sydney and south of Nowra.

Mr Brown said this project would improve the safety record along this section of the highway.

"The proposed upgrade involves widening and realigning 11.6 kilometres of the Princes Highway to a four-lane divided carriageway between Toolijooa Road, south of Gerringong, to Schofields Lane, south of Berry," Mr Brown said.

"This includes a bypass of Berry, improved interchange access to the north and south of Berry, and three bridges.

"This is great news for any motorist who uses this stretch of the highway."

To date, under the Government's Part 3A major projects assessment system, 16 projects applications involving more than 190 kilometres of road have been approved including:

- The Pacific Highway (seven sections – approximately 116 kilometres); and
- Hume Highway (eight sections – more than 70 kilometres).