



Submission  
No 85

*Minister for Roads*  
*Minister for Economic Reform*  
*Minister for Ports*  
*Minister for the Hunter*

M05/2174

Mr K. Greene MP  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

26 MAY 2005

Dear Mr Greene

Thank you for your letter seeking information on how the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) plans and delivers road infrastructure to address short and long term needs of growing coastal communities.

I'm advised the RTA works closely with other agencies such as the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR), the Commonwealth Government and local Councils to plan road works to meet the needs of coastal communities. The RTA plans future road works by assessing future growth in population and the need for better access to major centres.

In terms of the broader NSW context the NSW Government is contributing \$1.6 billion over ten years to the \$2.2 billion Pacific Highway upgrade program between Hexham and the Queensland border. This massive project will serve coastal communities by providing substantial lengths of dual carriageway highway between Newcastle and Tweed Heads.

Key funding for major coastal roads projects on the Pacific Highway and Central Coast during 2005/06 include:

- Pacific Highway:
  - \$79.1 million to help continue the Pacific Highway dual carriageway project between Brunswick Heads and Yelgun (jointly funded);
  - \$7 million to upgrade Cudgerah Creek Road as part of the completed Yelgun to Chinderah dual carriageway project (jointly funded);
  - \$1.5 million for the Banora Point Deviation at Tweed Heads South;
  - \$26 million for the Bundacree Creek to Possum Brush dual carriageway project near Nahiack (jointly funded);
  - \$62 million for stage one of the Karuah to Bulahdelah dual carriageway project (jointly funded);
  - \$5 million for preparatory works and land acquisition on the Ballina bypass project;
  - \$8 million for the Coopernook Deviation dual carriageway project;

- Central Coast:
  - \$6 million for widening The Entrance Rd to dual carriageway between Terrigal Drive and Carlton Road;
  - \$1 million for widening of Avoca Drive between The Entrance Rd and Bayside Drive;
  - \$2.5 million for widening The Entrance Road between Ocean View Drive and Tumbi Road;
  - \$1.5 million to complete improvements at the intersection of Terrigal Drive and The Entrance Road.

The RTA has also recently upgraded the F3 freeway between the Hawkesbury River and Calga to six lanes.

On the South Coast, the NSW Government is investing \$380 million on the Princes Highway over 12 years to provide four lanes to Kiama by 2010. Since 1998/99 a total of \$254 million has been spent by the NSW Government on the Princes Highway.

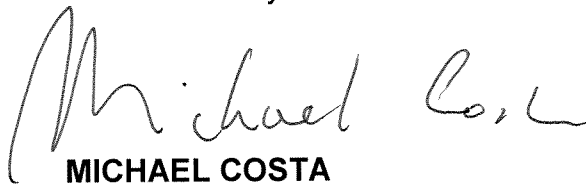
In December 2004, the NSW Government announced that a further \$30 million will be spent over the next three years on road safety improvements on the Highway.

Key funding for projects in the Princes Highway construction program during 2005/06 include:

- \$18 million to complete the North Kiama Bypass;
- \$6 million for preliminary work on the Northern Distributor extension;
- \$2.5 million towards northbound and southbound ramps on the Princes Highway at Kiama; and
- \$2.2 million on planning work for Oak Flats to Dunmore dual carriageway.

If you would like any further information on this matter, please contact Mr Brian Watters, General Manager, Network Development on 9218 6203.

Yours sincerely



**MICHAEL COSTA**