



**John Barilaro**

Deputy Premier

Minister for Regional NSW

Minister for Skills

Minister for Small Business

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday 6 March, 2019

# **GREEN LIGHT FOR \$2.5 BILLION GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY DUPLICATION**

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will duplicate the full 31km stretch of the Great Western Highway, from Katoomba to Lithgow, by 2028.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro and Member for Bathurst Paul Toole announced the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will begin construction and design on \$2.5 billion of upgrades in the next term of government.

Construction will begin in the following locations:

- Medlow Bath Upgrade
- Mount Victoria Bypass
- Jenolan Caves Road to South Bowenfels

Planning and design will begin on:

- Katoomba to Medlow Bath
- Medlow Bath to Blackheath
- Blackheath Bypass Tunnel
- Blackheath to Mount Victoria

Mr Barilaro said the full duplication from Katoomba to Lithgow will deliver much improved safety and efficiency, improve freight access and cut travel times and the road toll, while laying the foundations for the transformation of a rapidly growing region.

“The Central West NSW region is the third-largest contributor to the NSW economy and the Great Western Highway is vital to the NSW economy, connecting Sydney with world-class people, produce and resources from Lithgow, Bathurst, Orange, Mudgee, Wellington, Dubbo and beyond,” Mr Barilaro said.

“We have worked hard to get the Budget back into shape and to strengthen our economy. That hard work is paying off in spades as we are able to deliver these major infrastructure projects for regional communities across NSW.”

Member for Bathurst Paul Toole welcomed the news.

“The population in the Central West region is expected to grow by around eight per cent over the next 20 years, with the total number of vehicles travelling along the highway west of

Katoomba expected to increase by at least 1.5 per cent each year,” Mr Toole said.

“The Great Western Highway duplication project will not only improve road safety and access, it will generate thousands of local jobs, primarily in construction and engineering but also in the many service sectors required to support such an enormous enterprise.

“I’m pleased a NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will also start planning for a tunnel at Blackheath, to protect the heritage and character of the local community, as well as planning for a bypass at Mt Victoria, in consultation with the community, to ensure efficient through traffic and safe local connectivity.”

The NSW Liberals & Nationals is currently undertaking \$250 million in safety upgrades between Katoomba and Lithgow and has already delivered significant improvements to the Great Western Highway, including the completion of the upgrade between Emu Plains and Katoomba.

The Great Western Highway upgrades will be delivered as part of a 10-year program. A NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will seek funding from the Federal Government to assist with this task.

### **Vision of Great Western Highway road sections to be duplicated -**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/n95q5nb1qhgsa8k/22June2018%20-%20Blue%20Mountains%20Road%20Funding%20-%201080p.mp4?dl=0>

#### **MEDIA:**

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