

ITEM-5 LMM 22/02/2022 - MINMI ROAD UPGRADE BETWEEN NEWCASTLE ROAD AND MINMI

MOTION

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes the long-standing issues along Minmi Road and the well overdue upgrades the road requires to alleviate traffic congestion for local residents in Wallsend, Maryland, Fletcher and Minmi;
2. Notes that Minmi Road is a vital and important major arterial connection as part of Newcastle's broader road network, particularly in the Western suburbs where it causes much frustration for many local families every day;
3. Notes our ongoing commitment to upgrade the city's road network and the social and economic benefits that road infrastructure investment brings for our local economy, businesses, and the safety of all road users;
4. Notes that there is \$26 million allocated to upgrade notorious traffic pinch points and active transport connections along Minmi Road between Newcastle Road and Minmi, including duplicating large sections of the arterial western corridor road from one lane of traffic in each direction to two lanes each way;
5. Acknowledges that these essential upgrades will provide a large-scale infrastructure program which will significantly alleviate traffic congestion along Minmi Road and deliver the long overdue upgrades the road requires whilst providing long awaited relief to many frustrated road users and creating local jobs.

BACKGROUND:

KEY POINTS

- An effective road transport network that makes possible the rapid movement of goods and people is, self-evidently, an essential requirement of Newcastle's modern economy and the growth the city is experiencing.
- The long-term plan will address key pinch points, improve productivity, and ease congestion across West Newcastle's network by:
 - widening the notorious traffic bottleneck at Longworth Avenue in Wallsend from one lane of traffic each way to two lanes in each direction;
 - expediate planning for the widening of the road from Maryland Drive in Maryland through to Fletcher, with construction to be commenced upon completion of Longworth Avenue.
- The widening of Minmi Road from Wallsend to Fletcher and Minmi is a crucial piece of city infrastructure aimed at alleviating heavy traffic along the main arterial road in the City's growing Western Corridor.
- Large housing estates have been approved in this area by previous councils or the NSW Planning Department, without adequate early investment in infrastructure noting the Lord

Mayor and Council has worked to fix these historic failings and deliver the infrastructure the community needs.

- The upgrades aim to improve connectivity, responding to local growth priorities, and unlocking new housing opportunities as well as economic potential.
- Under City of Newcastle's continued leadership, we will begin the delivery of one of the most significant capital road works and traffic lane duplication projects in our City's history to alleviate traffic congestion for residents travelling to and from Wallsend, Maryland, Fletcher and Minmi.
- Residents have long identified the need to widen Minmi Road and provide two dedicated lanes of traffic to and from our western suburbs to ease the morning and afternoon commute for residents living in Wallsend, Maryland, Fletcher and Minmi.
- Work has been proposed to commence at one of the most complex sections of the connection, by widening and duplicating traffic lanes at Longworth Avenue between Newcastle Road and the traffic lights near the Wallsend Bunnings, with construction estimated around \$15 million.
- Longworth Avenue becomes quite congested during the morning and afternoon commute and constructing additional traffic lanes will improve safety at intersection pinch points, reduce commuter waiting times at the Newcastle Road roundabout and traffic lights at the intersection of Cowper Street, Longworth Avenue and the entry point of Minmi Road.
- State Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery MP endorsed and welcomed Newcastle Council's commitment as a huge win for the local community and commended Council leadership for their commitment to delivering a solution to alleviate traffic congestion for the residents of Wallsend, Maryland, Fletcher and Minmi.
- The Member for Wallsend noted that the Council leadership have a strong track record of local delivery with the Wallsend flood mitigation works and the \$3.3 million Tyrrell Street Bridge upgrade completed, the upgrades to Wallsend Town Centre, Wallsend Active Hub under construction and many brand-new playgrounds in our local parks also stating she looks forward to continuing to work closely with Newcastle Council to continue to deliver for our local community.