

Section 9

Operational achievements 2013–14

Operational achievements 2013–14

Roads and Maritime has made major contributions to the state's objectives outlined in *NSW 2021 – A Plan to Make NSW Number One*, the NSW Government's Long Term Transport Masterplan, NSW Freight and Ports Strategy and Transport for NSW's strategy, *Connections*.

Optimising the safety of our networks

This year we focused on improving road and maritime safety for the community by:

- Delivering 145 projects under the State and Federal Black Spot programs to improve road safety at identified locations and contribute to the NSW 2021 target of reducing fatalities to less than 4.3 per 100,000 population by 2016.
- Launching a new policy to allow mobile vendors to sell coffee and light refreshments in selected NSW rest areas to fill a gap in refreshment services along a number of major State corridors. Where approved by local councils, vendors are now operating across NSW on major highways.
- Participating in a review of the current and future highway service centres on the Pacific Highway.
- Creating new overtaking lanes throughout NSW, including on the Oxley Highway between the Pacific Highway and Wauchope, and five locations on the Newell Highway.
- Installing new point-to-point cameras to enforce restrictions on heavy vehicle speeding in NSW. As of 30 June 2014, 24 point-to-point lengths were operational across the State.
- Installing red light speed cameras at an additional 21 intersections across NSW, bringing the total to 126 intersections.
- Increasing mobile speed camera enforcement hours to 7000 per month, leading to crash reduction across the whole network.
- Conducting 210 speed zone reviews across NSW, resulting in 132 speed zone changes.
- Rolling out school zone flashing lights to 101 schools before the start of the 2014 school year, improving safety for children by warning motorists to slow down as they enter 40km/h school zones.
- Delivering the School Crossing Supervisor Program to provide supervisors to 701 schools across NSW.
- Delivering a program of life jacket awareness initiatives as part of the boating safety communications and education strategy 2012–15, including promoting the use of life jackets via a mobile van at key boating areas.
- Creating 18 new Boating Education Officer positions to promote boating safety.
- Delivering new and improved modular boat ramp signage to 40 priority locations across the State.
- Supporting the introduction of the National System for Domestic Commercial Vessel Safety to simplify commercial vessel safety requirements.
- Completing initial safety work on Mona Vale Road in January 2014.
- Working with Transport for NSW (Centre for Road Safety) and NSW Police to complete a detailed safety review of a section of Appin Road, and starting work on safety improvements.
- Completing key asset maintenance services to improve the smoothness, durability and skid-resistance of roads. This work included:
 - Resurfacing 4.61 per cent of the asphalt network, exceeding the target of 3.2 per cent at a lower cost than budgeted.
 - Rebuilding 1.92 per cent of the existing road pavement network, reducing costs by around six per cent.
 - Resurfacing 8.65 per cent of the sprayed seal network.

Easing congestion and optimising the reliability and efficiency of journeys

In 2013–14 we:

- Delivered a range of travel solutions to optimise the movement of people and goods throughout our road and maritime networks. We:
- Continued to work with the Transport Management Centre to ensure consistent delivery of critical incident and event management services across NSW.
- Continued to ease congestion by delivering pinch point projects worth \$43 million. A pinch point is a location which experiences traffic congestion, causing delays and increasing travel time along a route. We delivered 12 intersection upgrades in Western Sydney under the Pinch Point Program in 2013–14.
- Championed the development and implementation of the Sydney Clearways Strategy.
- Implemented clearway extensions on Victoria Road, Rozelle in March 2014.
- Carried out studies and consultation for the remaining four priority routes including Lane Cove Road, Mona Vale Road, King Georges Road and the Princes Highway.
- Partnered with Transport for NSW, City of Sydney Council and other stakeholders to achieve the NSW Government release of the Sydney City Centre Access Strategy.

Supporting the use of public transport

Roads and Maritime supports Transport for NSW initiatives to increase the use of public transport.

In 2013–14 we:

- Started work on Drummoyne and Mosman Bay ferry wharf upgrades, improving Sydney's ferry service for passengers. Planning or construction also started for Balmain East, Sydney Olympic Park, Cremorne Point, Pyrmont Bay and McMahons Point wharves. The new wharves are part of the NSW Government's \$770 million Transport Access Program.
- Partnered with Transport for NSW to operate and develop strategic bus corridors across

the Sydney metropolitan area, improving the reliability of bus services and reducing bus journey times. We completed three bus priority infrastructure improvement projects this year, providing continuous bus lanes and bus priority at traffic lights.

- Operated 57 bus priority enforcement cameras. The cameras were operational 99.3 per cent of the time in 2013–14, helping ensure appropriate and compliant use of bus lanes.
- Regulated road-based public transport services (buses, taxis and hire cars) to ensure the safety and reliability of services and protection from fraud.
- Regulated commercial vessels, including the licensing and vessel compliance of Sydney Harbour ferry service operators.
- Developed a consistent accreditation model for all third-party schemes, including (but not limited to) buses, taxis, hire cars, tow trucks, inspection vehicles, modified vehicles and livestock loading programs.
- Developed new mechanisms and tools to manage bus safety in NSW in consultation with Bus NSW and Transport for NSW.

Improving our customers' experience

In 2013–14 we:

- Delivered real-time information as part of the rollout of the Roads and Maritime Travel Time Information Service Management Plan, including new variable message signs at six new locations on the M1 Pacific Motorway.
- Provided new online maps and improved information for customers on:
 - The movement of livestock.
 - Congestion avoidance.
 - Rest areas and driver reviver stops.
 - Access information for restricted access vehicles.
 - Boat ramps and their availability.
- Completed a pilot and started the implementation of personalised email alerts for hazards on defined journeys via the Live Traffic website.

- Completed the rollout of the new alpha-numeric route numbering system, updating 63 routes and installing more than 11,000 cover plates. This helps customers to navigate our road network and brings NSW into line with other states and territories.
- Continued to reform and improve registration and licensing processes for our customers, including:
 - Introducing new processes for aquatic licences and recreational vessel registration.
 - Contracting third-party providers to deliver classroom and practical training to learner and provisional drivers, improving their understanding of road safety and reducing their compulsory supervised driving hours.
 - Working with Transport for NSW to rollout a program to align boat trailer, vessel and vehicle registration expiry dates.
 - Improving the online account process, enabling customers to complete multiple transactions, while only validating and authenticating their details once.
 - Combining online demerit points and driving record requests into a single transaction.
 - Launching a mobile site, which complemented the NSW Rego iPhone app, to allow customers using smartphones to complete a registration renewal or free registration check on their mobile phone.

Improving road safety through heavy vehicle compliance programs

NSW has the toughest and most active heavy vehicle enforcement regime in Australia. All NSW-registered heavy vehicles are checked for compliance during annual registration. The NSW compliance and enforcement program includes:

- 285 heavy vehicle regulation inspectors.
- Eight heavy vehicle checking stations.
- A fleet of more than 100 compliance vehicles equipped with improved technology to assist with compliance activities.
- 27 Safe-T-Cam cameras at 24 locations in NSW linked to 13 Safe-T-Cam sites in South Australia.
- 24 point-to-point camera sites.

- Around 200 fixed roadside inspection sites.
- Joint taskforce compliance inspection operations as required.

In 2013–14 we:

- Used satellite-tracking information gathered as part of the Intelligent Access Program to target non-compliant operators for education and enforcement action.
- Supported the introduction of new legislation for overheight and overlength vehicles causing damage to our assets and causing congestion.
- Upgraded heavy vehicle signage and warning facilities to support changed fine and vehicle deregistration legislation.
- Established the Road Freight Industry Council Overheight Vehicles Working Group and hosted its first meeting in September 2013, developing a program of work to address emerging issues such as the demand for the movement of oversize and overmass vehicles on the NSW road network.

Improving freight journeys, productivity and safety

The freight industry is a key driver of productivity and economic growth. Roads and Maritime is responsible for improving infrastructure and delivering programs to improve freight efficiency and safety.

In 2013–14 we:

- Displayed the preferred options for the removal of the rail level crossing on General Holmes Drive and the widening of Joyce Drive between O’Riordan Street to Mill Pond Road. This improvement work east of the Airport will reduce congestion caused by freight and passenger vehicles, improving traffic flow and access to the airport, Port Botany and in the future, the WestConnex motorway.
- Continued to deliver the Bridges for the Bush Program, which involves the replacement and upgrade of key State-owned bridges in regional areas. This year we:
 - Completed the replacement of the Timber Truss Bridge over Crookwell River at James Park on Main Road 54.

- Started construction of Tulladunna Bridge approaches, near Wee Waa and Bemboka River Bridge, near Bega.
- Achieved preconstruction approvals for Kapooka Bridge, near Wagga Wagga.
- Completed the concept design for the Tabulam Bridge over the Clarence River.
- Advanced the concept design for Gunnedah Bridge.
- Facilitated and supported the introduction of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and *National Heavy Vehicle Law*, bringing business and safety benefits, including expected economic benefits of up to \$12.4 billion over the next 12 years.
- Assisted Transport for NSW to develop and implement a Grain Harvest Management Scheme for the 2013–14 NSW grain harvest. Fifty-six local councils participated in the scheme, which enhanced transport productivity during harvest seasons by providing eligible heavy vehicles with increased mass limits.
- Continued to work with local councils to gain acceptance of the NSW Livestock Loading Scheme, which provides increased mass limits for livestock loads and was established to enhance productivity and protects jobs in the NSW meat and livestock industry. As at 30 June 2014, 21 local councils were participating in the scheme.
- Introduced the requirement for a Transport Management Plan for “high risk” oversize and/or overmass movements. The plan will describe how an oversize and/or overmass vehicle will safely travel in NSW, reducing the impact on other road users and road infrastructure.
- Delivered six heavy vehicle rest area upgrades and 15 livestock initiative projects valued at \$12.6 million under the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program.

Providing the infrastructure for the future

Several major infrastructure projects were in planning and construction in 2013–14. A full list of projects is provided in Appendix 3: Major work.

Key infrastructure projects for 2013–14 included:

- **WestConnex**, which is Australia’s largest urban road infrastructure project. It will provide a crucial missing link in Sydney’s motorway network, connecting Sydney’s west and south west to the city, airport and port. The 33 kilometre motorway includes about 14 kilometres of surface roads and up to 19 kilometres of tunnels.

In 2013–14 we:

- The M4 Widening, M4 East, and King Georges Road Interchange Upgrade planning applications were lodged.
- The concept designs for the M4 Widening and M4 East were displayed for community comment.
- Issues reports for the M4 Widening and M4 East were published, responding to community feedback.
- Preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for the M4 Widening and M4 East started.

For more information about WestConnex, see Appendix 30.

- **NorthConnex:** The proposed NorthConnex motorway will provide twin nine kilometre tunnels linking the M1 Pacific Motorway at Wahroonga to the Hills M2 Motorway at West Pennant Hills. The link will provide an important route for freight traffic and better connectivity within NSW to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow along Pennant Hills Road. The project is expected to remove up to 5000 trucks and heavy vehicles per day from Pennant Hills Road.

In 2013–14 we:

- Prepared the Environmental Impact Statement ahead of its public display from 15 July 2014.
- Continued to consult impacted property owners, businesses and the local community.

- **Hunter Expressway:** The \$1.7 billion, 40 kilometre Hunter Expressway opened to traffic on 22 March 2014, delivering the Hunter region's largest road infrastructure project. The expressway links the M1 Pacific Motorway, near Seahampton and the New England Highway, west of Branxton, cutting travel times by up to 28 minutes between Newcastle and the Hunter region. Preliminary traffic data shows around 20,000 vehicles per day using the Hunter Expressway on weekdays and weekends.
- **Hume Highway:** This 800 kilometre highway links the nation's two largest state capitals, Sydney and Melbourne. The final project in the duplication of the highway to provide two lanes in each direction between Sydney and Melbourne was opened to traffic in August 2013. The program created an estimated 80,000 jobs in NSW during construction. The completed highway provides a safer and more efficient trip for travellers and road freight between Sydney and Melbourne. In addition, the construction of 26 major bypasses in NSW has removed large trucks from local roads and towns, reducing noise and other traffic impact on local communities.
- **Pacific Highway upgrade:** This program of work will provide motorists and the freight industry with a divided, four-lane carriageway between Hexham and the Queensland border. At the end of 2013–14, of the 670 kilometres of highway between Hexham and Queensland:
 - 381 kilometres was a four-lane divided road.
 - 80 kilometres was being built.
 - A further 57 kilometres was ready for construction and had a contract awarded or a preferred contractor announced.
 - We continued to prepare for major work on the remaining 155 kilometres of highway upgrade.
 In 2013–14 we:
 - Completed construction of the Herons Creek to Stills Road and Devils Pulpit upgrades.
 - Started construction on the Frederickton to Eungai, Nambucca Heads to Urunga and Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrades.
- Awarded contracts for the Kundabung to Kempsey and Oxley Highway to Kundabung upgrades.
- Reached agreement on the final conditions of approval for the Woolgoolga to Ballina project with the Department of Planning and Environment. The project is being considered by the Commonwealth for approval in 2014–15.
- Developed a new and innovative delivery model for the Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade project, allowing us to better harness the capabilities of the private sector.
- **M1 Princes Motorway/Princes Highway upgrade:** The M1 and Princes Highway is the major inter-regional transport corridor that connects the South Coast of NSW with Sydney. In 2013–14 we:
 - Opened the Bega Bypass, delivering faster, safer and smoother driving conditions for motorists and taking heavy vehicles out of the Bega CBD, improving safety for all road users.
 - Opened the four-lane updated highway at South Nowra, improving traffic flow for motorists.
 - Recommended a preferred corridor for a new Shoalhaven River Bridge at Nowra following planning and detailed community consultation.
 - Continued construction of the \$329 million Gerringong upgrade, with completion due in 2015.
 - Awarded the design and construct contract for the \$580 million Foxground and Berry Bypass.
 - Completed a review of options for a bypass of Park Rail.
- **Great Western Highway:** This highway serves as a key freight route between Sydney and central NSW, as well as being a popular tourist route. The Great Western Highway upgrade involves widening the highway to four lanes between Emu Plains and Katoomba together with safety improvements between Katoomba and Lithgow. In 2013–14 we:
 - Finished the majority of work between Woodford to Hazelbrook.

- Continued construction of the final two sections between Bullaburra and Wentworth Falls.
- Invited tenders for the construction of the Forty Bends upgrade, near Lithgow.
- Determined the environmental impact assessment for safety work in Hartley Valley.
- Displayed the environmental impact assessment for safety work in Mount Victoria village.
- Awarded the contract for the Great Western Highway upgrade at Kelso.
- **M2 Motorway:** The enhancements from Windsor Road to Lane Cove Road were opened to traffic in August 2013, reducing congestion in peak periods and improving access to major growth areas. Construction of the new Lane Cove Road on-ramp to the M2 Motorway started in November 2013 and will be completed in 2014–15.
- Displayed the concept design for the additional crossing over the Clarence River at Grafton for community comment.
- Supported 66 boating infrastructure projects in regional NSW through the Better Boating Program, totalling \$5.045 million.
- Progressed planning for the upgrade of the Coffs Harbour boat ramp and Palm Beach ferry wharf in collaboration with local council and boating stakeholders.

Central Coast roads

In 2013–14 we:

- Opened the Central Coast Highway upgrade between Matcham Road and Ocean View Drive to traffic in August 2013, improving traffic flow and delivering major intersection improvements and upgraded facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Started construction on:
 - Central Coast Highway, Brisbane Water Drive and Manns Road intersection reconstruction project.
 - A new intersection on Sparks Road to service the Warnervale town centre.
- Awarded the contract for the detailed design of the Pacific Highway, Wyong Road intersection upgrade.
- Awarded design contracts for Pacific Highway, Wyong town centre and the M1 Pacific Motorway widening, Karingong interchange to Somersby interchange.
- Completed the environmental impact assessment determination for the Wyong Road, Enterprise Drive intersection upgrade.

Developing regional networks and infrastructure

In addition to the opening of the Hunter Expressway and ongoing work on the Pacific Highway, Great Western Highway and Princes Highway upgrade programs in regional NSW. In 2013–14 Roads and Maritime:

- Opened the Shortland to Sandgate section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass, providing improved access between the developing western parts of Newcastle, regional produce markets and the Port of Newcastle.
- Started construction on the final stage of the Nelson Bay Road upgrade between Bobs Farm and Anna Bay.
- Released the preferred option for the Cormorant Road, Industrial Drive to Stockton Bridge project in Newcastle; the New England Highway, Bolivia Hill upgrade; and the New England Highway, Scone bypass and rail level crossing removal.
- Invited tenders for option assessment for the rail underpass widening project on the New England Highway at Gowrie Gates.

Supporting Sydney's growth and development

Roads and Maritime delivers critical infrastructure to support the growth and development of Sydney, including accommodating the population expansion occurring in Sydney's major growth centres.

In 2013–14 we:

- Opened the Erskine Park Link Road to traffic, providing a vital link between the NSW Government's Western Sydney Employment Area and the M4 and M7 Motorways.
- Established a new program office to deliver the Western Sydney Infrastructure Program following the NSW and Federal Governments' announcement of \$3.5 billion, 10-year program of road upgrades to support a new airport at Badgerys Creek.
- Commenced planning for a package of work to support the development of the new Northern Beaches Hospital, including a full consultation program.
- Continued work on Camden Valley Way, Bringelly Road to Oran Park Drive.
- Invited construction tenders for Bringelly Road, Camden Valley Way to King Street.
- Determined the environment impact assessments for upgrade of sections of Richmond Road and Schofields Road.
- Awarded construction contracts for upgrades and extensions to sections of Richmond Road, Schofields Road and Narellan Road.
- Awarded design contracts for the upgrade of sections of The Northern Road.

Supporting an active community

Roads and Maritime is committed to making provisions for bicycles in all new major road infrastructure and maintenance work. This is in line with the NSW Government State Plan, which is dedicated to decreasing car dependence and improving the environment in NSW.

In 2013–14 we:

- Allocated \$5.41 million to support 72 boating infrastructure initiatives across NSW, including 66 in regional areas, as part of the Better Boating Program.
- Started planning for the delivery of additional maritime recreational boating infrastructure in partnership with local councils and boating stakeholders.
- Worked with local regional councils to provide funding on a 50:50 basis for 126 local bicycle network projects, resulting in the delivery of more than 46 kilometres of new cycleways in regional areas.
- Delivered more than 16.2 kilometres of strategic cycleways in Sydney and carried out planning and design for projects in future years.
- Delivered 182 pedestrian projects at a total cost of \$13.4 million.
- Carried out community and stakeholder consultation on behalf of Transport for NSW for key projects under the Sydney City Centre Access Strategy, including the Sydney City Centre Bus Infrastructure and cycleways on Castlereagh, Park and Liverpool streets.
- Started work on the Heathcote Pedestrian Bridge and started planning and consultation for the Albert "Tibby" Cotter footbridge over Anzac Parade, Moore Park.

Maintaining the safety and integrity of our assets

In 2013–14 the NSW Government allocated \$1.55 billion to the maintenance and repair of roads and bridges across the State. This funding is for repairing potholes, upgrading the road surface, removing graffiti from road signs, tidying vegetation near roads and completing minor improvement projects to make the roads safer and more durable.

This allocation also included nearly \$432 million to councils for Block Grants, Repair and Improvement of Roads (REPAIR) funding and natural disaster recovery work.

In 2013–14 Roads and Maritime:

- Completed structural inspections on 2268 bridges, exceeding our target by 18.
- Completed 30 major bridge repairs with a further 11 projects in progress.
- Replaced seven bridges and five bridge-sized culverts (concrete drains).
- Completed the structural upgrade work on the ANZAC Bridge ahead of schedule, providing an improved asset for the 100,000 vehicles and pedestrians and cyclists that use the bridge each day.
- Repainted sections of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. 928 square metres were painted in June 2014 alone, the best production rate ever achieved.
- Renovated key ancillary systems on Sydney Harbour Bridge, including lane changing devices, which are crucial to the effective operation of the bridge.
- Completed 15,000 kilometres of line marking.
- Remediated 48 high risk slopes.
- Resurfaced the equivalent of 3173 lane kilometres of bitumen sprayed seal surface and 627 lane kilometres of asphalt surfaced roads across the State.
- Rebuilt 1.92 per cent of the existing road network or the equivalent of 1065 lane kilometres.
- Replaced or upgraded 98 drainage structures.
- Reviewed the stability of 580 road cuttings and embankments.
- Carried out targeted risk assessments on 2482 culverts.
- Performed regular inspections of more than 100 maritime structures located in Sydney, Newcastle and Port Kembla harbours, together with necessary maintenance work.
- Performed a feasibility study and created an action plan to implement more efficient light technologies at Roads and Maritime-managed lighthouses to reduce our energy usage and maintenance costs.

Partnering with stakeholders and industry

Roads and Maritime provides grants to local councils under a number of programs. In 2013–14 we:

- Provided \$140.1 million to councils under the Block Grant Program for the general management and maintenance of Regional Roads.
- Provided a further \$27.8 million through the REPAIR Program, for councils to complete major rehabilitation and development work on Regional Roads on a 50:50 funding basis.
- Participated in the Audit Office of NSW's independent performance audit of Regional Road funding. The final report was tabled in Parliament on 9 May 2014.
- Delivered a \$156.4 million program of work to address the effects of previous natural disasters throughout NSW.
- Started a review of natural disaster funding and administration arrangements for roads in consultation with NSW Treasury and other stakeholders.

In addition to our grants programs, this year Roads and Maritime partnered with Marine Compliance Taskforce agencies to implement key reforms, including agency co-location trials, sharing enforcement powers for minor offences (like fishing and boat licence checks) and developing common vessel procurement maintenance processes.