



MEDIA RELEASE

THE HON JOEL FITZGIBBON MP

MINISTER FOR DEFENCE

MEMBER FOR HUNTER

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OUR 1.7 BILLION HUNTER EXPRESSWAY

At a cost of \$1.7 billion, the Hunter Expressway will be the biggest road project in the Hunter's history. And it will be totally funded over a four year period.

It took a Labor Government to fund it and a Labor Government to build it.

The enormous cost blow-out caused by 11 years of Howard Government inaction is regrettable but the Lower Hunter Transport Study concluded that the link between the F3 Freeway and Branxton remained the most cost-effective solution and the option which would provide the greatest economic boost.

The beneficiaries include all those who trek between the Lower and Upper Hunter each day, the communities which will be relieved of heavy traffic movements, and the Hunter's economy.

It's been a long fight but the outcome is overwhelmingly welcome and satisfying. I acknowledge the support of the NSW Government which has agreed to contribute \$200 million.