



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Release**  
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### **TRANSPORT LINKS VITAL FOR NEWCASTLE'S FUTURE**

With Federal Parliament resuming this week, Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson has written to the Minister for Transport seeking urgent consideration of the infrastructure and transport needs of business and residents in the Newcastle and Hunter region.

"Following recent accidents, the public is understandably concerned about the safety and capacity of the F3 between Sydney and Newcastle," Ms Grierson said. "Business groups are also worried that inadequate transport links are hampering our economic development."

At last year's election, Federal Labor committed to:

- \$840 million towards a dedicated freight rail track from North Strathfield to Gosford;
- \$150 million for approvals and planning to get started on connecting the F3 to the Sydney Orbital, with further funding to be determined once these processes are completed; and
- a freight rail refuge near Broadmeadow, bi-directional freight loops in the Morisset/Awaba area, and bi-directional signalling between Gosford and Newcastle to provide more opportunities for passenger trains to overtake freight services.

"These measures will reduce pressure on the F3 and increase the opportunity for freight to be transported by rail, and I have urged the Minister prioritise them in light of recent accidents on the F3."

"Modernisation and separation of the rail route between Newcastle and Sydney would encourage both commuters and freight off the F3, but we also need to escalate the development of the port of Newcastle as a container port. Having a second entry point and export point for freight would have considerable economic benefit for the state of NSW."

"Both these measures would directly reduce traffic on the F3 and increase its present and future capacity."

"The new approach to state and federal collaboration now possible under Infrastructure Australia - a new independent statutory authority - also offers a great opportunity for increased economic growth and public safety in the state of NSW."

"I look forward to Infrastructure Australia giving close consideration to other road, rail and port projects to meet the infrastructure needs of our region."

"I've also spoken with the Minister about these matters, and I welcome his attention and interest."

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