



**The Hon Anthony Albanese MP**

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

**The Hon Greg Combet AM, MP**

Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Procurement

Member for Charlton

**Sharon Grierson MP**

Member for Newcastle

**Jill Hall MP**

Member for Shortland

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## Media Statement

### **\$1.5 MILLION TO IMPROVE ROAD BLACK SPOTS IN THE HUNTER**

The Rudd Labor Government today announced an investment of more than \$1.5 million to improve dangerous black spots on local roads in the Hunter.

Federal Transport Minister Anthony Albanese said, "This is part of \$50.5 million in funding that the Rudd Government is delivering to fix black spots on local roads across Australia.

"We are committed to reducing crashes on our roads. Accidents take a huge toll on families, our communities and the economy."

Greg Combet, Parliamentary Secretary and Member for Charlton said, "I am absolutely delighted with today's announcement to continue making our local roads safer. Earlier this year I announced \$750,000 for Dorrington Rd and here is a further commitment to our community.

"Black Spot funding is critical to improving the safety of our local roads and prevent more accidents from occurring."

Sharon Grierson, Member for Newcastle said, "These are welcome improvements for residents, shoppers and families with children at school in this increasingly busy area."

Jill Hall, Member for Shortland said, "This is a serious investment in safer roads for local motorists and their families. This project will help drive down the appalling social and economic cost of road carnage."

The projects to be funded in the Hunter, in addition to the \$750,000 already announced to build a roundabout at the intersection of Dorrington Road and Wangi Road in Rathmines are:

- \$196,000 to install guideposts and realign the road along Clarence Town Road, four kilometres south of Clarence Town; and
- \$180,000 to install right turn arrows on traffic lights and upgrade road lighting on the Pacific Highway between Gommera Street and Turea Street in Blacksmiths;
- \$170,000 to make a number of improvements to the roundabout on the Newcastle Link Road and Cameron Park Drive intersection in Cameron Park;
- \$100,000 to install a concrete median on Excelsior Parade to prevent right turns out of Jindalee Street in Toronto;
- \$60,000 for works on Cary Street to prevent thru/right movements out of James and Donnelly streets and right turns into Donnelly Street in Toronto;
- \$53,000 to build guardrails and install guideposts along Gresford Road, two kilometres north of Paterson; and
- \$30,000 to improve lane clarity and install advisory signs in both directions along Northcott Drive, between Lexington Parade and Cynthia Street, in Adamstown Heights.

The parliamentarians said that the projects were assessed and recommended by a panel of independent road safety experts.

The experts included the NRMA, Federation of P&C Associations of NSW, Council on the Ageing, and Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia.

Mr Albanese said the program had a proven track record of saving lives.

“An evaluation of the Black Spot program has shown that it prevented at least 32 fatalities and more than 1,500 serious injuries in its first three years.

“It also returns around \$14 for every \$1 invested by reducing the number and cost of crashes.”

“I’m proud that the Rudd Government will honour its election commitment to increase black spot funding by 33 per cent next year, up to a record \$60 million. This means safer local roads for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.”

Anyone can suggest a location or a section of road for black spot funding using a nomination form that can be downloaded from [www.auslink.gov.au](http://www.auslink.gov.au).

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