

Penny Sharpe

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

**Yasmin Catley**

Minister for the Hunter, Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism

Jenny Aitchison

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

Media Release**NSW Budget delivers road upgrades to support renewables boom**

Tuesday, 18 June 2024

NSW regions from Newcastle to Dubbo and surrounds will benefit from a \$128.5 million investment to upgrade roads for drivers and allow for the transportation of components for renewable energy projects.

In addition to a series of state road upgrades, the funding will support preliminary planning for a logistics precinct at the Port of Newcastle, where large and heavy components will be stored and then loaded for delivery to project construction sites.

This 2024-25 Budget investment by the Minns Labor Government will build better communities for NSW, by ensuring we have the roads, infrastructure and affordable renewable energy we need.

Road upgrades will enable transportation of critical components required for the construction of new renewable infrastructure from Newcastle to the Renewable Energy Zones via the existing road network. The components will include wind turbine blades, batteries and transformers.

The initial road upgrades will prioritise the route from the Port of Newcastle to the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone near Dubbo. A portion of the route will also be used for transportation to the New England Renewable Energy Zone.

Individual developers will need to ensure vehicle movements can be accommodated on any additional local roads to their project sites.

Quote attributable to NSW Minister for Climate Change and Energy Penny Sharpe:

“This investment is a win-win. \$128.5 million in the 2024-25 Budget to not only improve the roads we drive on, but also ensure the construction of more renewable energy projects which will drive down power bills.

“To build solar and wind farms and our new transmission network we’ll need trucks to carry their components to sites. Upgrading the roads ensures deliver can happen quickly and safely.”

Quote attributable to NSW Minister for the Hunter Yasmin Catley:

“The Hunter is central to the transformation of our energy system and investments like these will ensure our region continues to prosper into the future.

“Port to Project will upgrade our road network, making it safer for all drivers, and create a logistics hub at Newcastle Port.

“Transforming our energy market is a challenge but it’s one the NSW Government takes seriously. We are investing in significant infrastructure and programs to ensure the Hunter remains an energy

powerhouse.”

Quote attributable to NSW Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Jenny Aitchison:

“Regional roads connect our local communities and this must be a vital consideration for all major infrastructure projects, including renewable energy projects.

“Making this investment in the Port to Project transport route ensures they remain safe and secure for all road users.”

MEDIA:

Natalie Peters | Minister Sharpe | 0403 177 343

Ashley Wick | Minister Catley | 0484 762 351

Wendy Fitzgibbon | Minister Aitchison | 0408 427 540