

MS25-002482


Australian Government
**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts**

To: The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (for decision)

Subject: Order for the Production of Documents (OPD) - Westbound Overpass on the New England Highway at Maitland Station- August 2025

Critical Date: Urgent – Please action by 25 August 2025 (the due date for tabling your response to the OPD).

Recommendation:

1. That you **sign** the letter responding to the OPD at **Attachment A**.

Signed / Not Signed

The Hon Catherine King MP

Date:

Comments:

Key Points:

1. On 23 July 2025, the Senate agreed the motion at **Attachment B** requiring the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government to table documents relating to the Westbound Overpass on the New England Highway at Maitland Station. This project is officially referred to as the ‘Westbound Overpass at the Maitland Roundabout in Maitland’ (the Project) and is part of the New England Highway Corridor.
2. The OPD requested all briefing notes, file notes, emails, correspondence or other records of interaction regarding the Project held by:
 - a. The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (the Minister);
 - b. The Minister’s Office; and
 - c. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (the department).

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MS25-002482

3. The Australian Government committed \$100 million to fully fund the Project through the Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook (PEFO) 2025.
4. In considering this request, the department has reviewed documents available to it relating to the Project and considers that the only document that would be appropriate to table in response is the Project factsheet prepared by the department for your Office (**Attachment C**).
 - a. The department has also prepared a response to a Senate question on notice from Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie regarding the Project (PQ25-00042 refers) which could be considered in scope. The proposed response is with your office for consideration.
5. There are a range of other documents available to the department which are related to the Project. However, the department recommends that you consider not tabling these documents and raising a public interest immunity claim on the following grounds:
 - a. Disclosure of Cabinet deliberations for any documents relating to the Australian Government's decision to commit to this Project (documents prepared for Cabinet deliberation are protected by Cabinet confidentiality and are not subject to disclosure); and
 - b. Disclosure of correspondence between the Australian and NSW governments and officials, could harm Commonwealth and State relations.
6. The department has been advised by your Office that there are no documents related to the request held within the Office that are reasonable to release.
7. A response letter seeking to claim partial public interest immunity is at **Attachment A** for your consideration.

Financial impacts: N/A

Legal/Legislative impacts: Nil

Stakeholder/Consultation: Legal Services Division, Legal Services – Public Law & Legislation Liaison Branch

Stakeholder implications: Nil

Media Opportunities: Nil

Attachments:

Attachment A: OPD Response Letter

Attachment B: Notice of Motion – Order No. 14

Attachment C: Project Factsheet

Cleared By: Andrew Bourne
 Position: First Assistant Secretary
 Division: Land Transport Infrastructure
 Mob: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Cleared Date: 22 August 2025

Contact Officer: Lok Potticary
 Position: Assistant Secretary, NSW and
 ACT Infrastructure Investment
 Mob: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Instructions for Ministerial Services: Nil

Do you require a signed hardcopy to be returned: No

Responsible Advisers: s22(1)(a)(ii)

PDMS Distribution List: Jim Betts, Jess Hall, Andrew Bourne, Lok Potticary

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Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy

Minister for Indigenous Australians

Senator for Northern Territory and Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Please see attached letter for tabling from the Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, regarding the following Order for the Production of Documents No. 14.

Yamalu

Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy
Minister for Indigenous Australians

/ / 2025

Encl



DEPARTMENT
OF THE SENATE

Table Office | 14
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
02 6277 3020 | CA.Table.Sen@aph.gov.au

23 July 2025

Senator the Honourable Malarndirri McCarthy
Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Attached is a copy of a letter which has been forwarded today to the Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Wong), concerning order no. 14 for the tabling of documents relating to a westbound overpass on the New England Highway at Maitland Station.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bryant'.

Tim Bryant
Clerk Assistant (Table)
for Richard Pye, Clerk of the Senate



DEPARTMENT
OF THE SENATE

Table Office | 14
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
02 6277 3020 | CA.Table.Sen@aph.gov.au

23 July 2025

Senator the Honourable Penny Wong
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Pursuant to standing order 164, I transmit to you the text of order no. 14 agreed to by the Senate today.
The order is as follows:

That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, by no later than midday on 25 August 2025, all briefing notes, file notes, emails, correspondence or other records of interaction regarding a westbound overpass on the New England Highway at Maitland Station held by:

- (a) the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (the minister);
- (b) the minister's office; and
- (c) the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts.

I have forwarded a copy of this letter to Senator McCarthy for her information.

Yours sincerely

Tim Bryant
Clerk Assistant (Table)
for Richard Pye, Clerk of the Senate



The Hon Catherine King MP

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Member for Ballarat

Ref: MS25-002482

Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy
Minister for Indigenous Australians
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I refer to three Orders for the Production of Documents (OPD) agreed by the Senate on 23 July 2025.

OPD No. 14 relates to the tabling of documents regarding the Westbound Overpass at the Maitland Roundabout in Maitland project (the Project). I have determined that it is appropriate to release one document and to make a partial public interest immunity claim over the other documents covered by Senate Order No. 14 for the following reasons:

- documents prepared for Cabinet deliberation are protected by Cabinet confidentiality and are not subject to disclosure; and
- the disclosure of other correspondence could harm the relations between the Commonwealth and the State of New South Wales.

As the Minister representing me in the Senate, I ask that you table this letter and the document which is not the subject of the claim.

I trust this information is of assistance to the Senate. I would appreciate you conveying this information to the President of the Senate.

Yours sincerely

Catherine King MP

/ /2025

cc: Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Leader of the Government in the Senate

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: CCH Parliament <politicalalert@cch.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 7 April 2025 3:33 PM
To: politicalalert@cch.com.au
Subject: Political Alert - Transcript of press conference, Maitland (FED)
Attachments: 097C1533.PDF

Please find attached: TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE, MAITLAND (FED)

Minister For Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development And Local Government, Catherine King, discusses M1 to Raymond Terrace extension, new funding for the Maitland roundabout, and planning funding for Bucketts Way intersection.

097C1533 Total number of pages 0 SUPPORT: politicalalert@cch.com.au or 02 6273 2070. MAILBOX: <https://www.cchparliament.com.au>

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Saturday, 5 April 2025 4:07 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: NSW MRs [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

To print please:

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Press Secretary
Office of the Hon Catherine King MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Member for Ballarat
M. s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Labor Campaign Media (via LaborMedia list)
<LaborMedia@media.australianlabor.org.au>
Sent: Monday, 7 April 2025 6:29 AM
To: LaborMedia@media.australianlabor.org.au
Subject: *** MEDIA ALERT - MINISTER CATHERINE KING AND MERYL SWANSON MP -
PRESS CONFERENCE - MAITLAND - 9:00AM TODAY ***

MEDIA ALERT

CATHERINE KING MP
MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MERYL SWANSON MP
MEMBER FOR PATERSON

Minister Catherine King and Member for Paterson Meryl Swanson are in **Maitland** today to make a significant road funding announcement for the region. They will hold a press conference.

9:00AM
MONDAY, 7 APRIL 2025

8 WALKER STREET
MAITLAND



MEDIA CONTACT:

[Redacted contact information]

Authorised by Paul Erickson, ALP, Canberra.

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s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Labor Campaign Media (via LaborMedia list)
<LaborMedia@media.australianlabor.org.au>
Sent: Monday, 7 April 2025 9:00 AM
To: LaborMedia@media.australianlabor.org.au
Subject: C KING AND SWANSON - MEDIA RELEASE - LABOR WILL DELIVER A WESTBOUND OVERPASS AT MAITLAND STATION & M1 INTERSECTION UPGRADES - MONDAY, 7 APRIL 2025



CATHERINE KING MP
MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MERYL SWANSON MP
MEMBER FOR PATERSON

LABOR WILL DELIVER A WESTBOUND OVERPASS AT MAITLAND STATION & M1
INTERSECTION UPGRADES

The Albanese Labor Government is delivering for the people of Paterson, investing a further \$112 million towards grade separation of three risky intersections in the region's road network.

The Government is helping ease congestion and improve road safety, through investing:

- \$100 million to deliver a westbound overpass at on the New England Highway at Maitland Station;
- \$12 million to design upgrades for The Bucketts Way and Medowie Road intersections on the M1 Pacific Highway.

Since the delivery of an eastbound flyover at Maitland Station in 2016, queues on the west-bound side have been left unaddressed.

The Albanese Government knows further investment, in partnership with the Minns Labor Government, is needed to ensure this intersection is improved for the Maitland community.

Today's \$100 million investment into the Maitland overpass will add to more than \$1 billion in upgrades the Albanese Government is delivering to improve traffic flow on the New England Highway.

Early investigation work has been completed by Transport for NSW, meaning work can begin quickly when design scoping is complete, and construction contracts signed.

To the north of Raymond Terrace, an investment of \$12 million will help plan upgrades of the M1 Pacific Highway intersections at The Bucketts Way and Medowie Road. This funding will help improve traffic flow, reduce congestion and enhance safety for road users.

Work on the \$710 million Singleton bypass is making strong progress with pillars now in the ground for new bridges, and \$304.8 million in funding was brought forward in the last budget to fast-track the Muswellbrook bypass.

This \$112 million investment is a decision of government and will be reflected in the 2025 PEFO.

Quotes attributable to Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Minister Catherine King:

"Labor knows that Maitland Station roundabout needs upgrades as the Hunter region continues to grow - and only Labor will invest to make this key intersection smoother and safer.

"Meryl Swanson has been a brilliant local advocate, ensuring the concerns of her constituents are heard at every level of Government.

"That's why we're seeing welcome progress here, and why we'll be able to deliver this key improvement on this roundabout."

"This is just one of a number of projects we're delivering here in the Hunter, to make driving across the region safer and more efficient for everyone."

Quotes attributable to Member for Paterson Meryl Swanson:

"This upgrade is vital for our growing communities. It will improve safety, reduce congestion, and make travel easier for families and businesses. It's about delivering real

outcomes, not just promises.

"The western overpass upgrade will be a game-changer for daily commuters. It's time to finish what was left incomplete and give Maitland the infrastructure it deserves. We're proud to get it done for our community.

"I've been listening to the concerns of Port Stephens residents about the need for upgrades to Medowie Rd and Bucketts Way intersections, which is why I am so pleased that we have secured \$12 million to get the preliminary project planning underway.

"I recognise that these are key intersections for the safe travel of local residents, businesses, and tourists and that they are essential in maintaining vital links between industries such as defence, manufacturing, and our local community."

Quotes attributable to Member for Maitland Jenny Aitchison:

"When the eastern overpass of the Maitland Station roundabout opened in 2016, I said it was a job half-done.

"Together, Meryl and I advocated for the western overpass to be completed, but Liberal Governments of the past just didn't listen.

"Now I'm really pleased that the Albanese Government is helping to finally finish the job and complete the missing piece of the New England Highway at Maitland."

MONDAY, 7 APRIL 2025

MEDIA CONTACT:

Labor Campaign Media | campaignmedia@cbr.alp.org.au | 02 6120 0805

Authorised by Paul Erickson, ALP, Canberra.

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From: DLO CKing
Sent: Monday, 11 August 2025 10:57 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: DLO CKing
Subject: FW: Order for the Production of Documents No. 14 - New England Highway [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: OPD - Kovacic - DUE 25 AUG 25.pdf; Information Sheet - Orders for the Production of Documents - as at August 2023.docx

OFFICIAL

Hi s22(1)(a)(iii)

Appreciate you were cc'd into the original – just flagging again so it doesn't get missed in the handover from [redacted] to you.

Thanks,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Departmental Liaison Officer • Office of the Hon Catherine King MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: Senate Parliamentary Liaison Office <SenatePLO@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 July 2025 8:25 PM
To: Senate Parliamentary Liaison Office <SenatePLO@pmc.gov.au>; Tabling <tabling@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @mo.infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <s22(1)(a)(ii) @MO.infrastructure.gov.au>; DLO CKing <dlo.cking@mo.infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au' s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au' s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au' s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au' s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au>; 'DLOMcCarthy@niaa.gov.au' <DLOMcCarthy@niaa.gov.au>
Cc: 'Whip, Chief Labor (SEN)' <ChiefLaborWhip.Senate@aph.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) (External Contact) s22(1)(a)(ii) @aph.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) (Sen T. Sheldon' s22(1)(a)(ii) @aph.gov.au>; PMO - Parliament <Parliament@pm.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @finance.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @finance.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @pm.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) (Sen P. Wong)' s22(1)(a)(ii) @aph.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @finance.gov.au' s22(1)(a)(ii) @finance.gov.au>
Subject: Order for the Production of Documents No. 14 - New England Highway [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good evening

As flagged, the attached motion requiring the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (Senator McCarthy) to table documents relating to a westbound overpass on the New England Highway at Maitland Station. (details in the attached) was moved by Senator Kovacic and agreed to by the Senate this afternoon.

The Senator's office will shortly receive a letter from the Clerk of the Senate outlining the order agreed by the Senate. The Senator is required to provide the specified documents by **no later than 12pm 25 August 2025**.

Once the documents have been gathered and approved by the Senator for tabling, they should be accompanied by a letter to the President of the Senate (Senator the Honourable Sue Lines), indicating that the documents are the Senator's response to the Order for the Production of Documents (notice of motion number 14). Alternatively, the Senator can write to the President of the Senate outlining their reasons for not being in a position to comply with the order.

- Where the documents are being requested of a Senate minister in their capacity representing a House of Representatives minister, it is the House of Representatives minister's responsibility for compiling the documents, but the Senate minister's responsibility to respond to the order. In these circumstances, the House of Representatives minister should write to the Senate minister, outlining the response or reasons for non-compliance, and the Senate minister should write a cover letter addressed to the President of the Senate conveying the response.
- On the day before the return to order is due, the Senate minister's office should inform the Senate Parliamentary Liaison Officer whether or not the order is likely to be complied with by the designated date and time. We can then indicate to the Senate whether or not a response will be tabled at ministerial statements on the due date.
- If further time is required, the Senate minister should table a letter by the due date, advising that further time is required in order to respond. As per the above, if the order has been directed to a Senate minister in their capacity representing a House of Representatives minister, the House of Representatives minister should write to the Senate minister, outlining the reasons for the delay, and the Senate minister should write a cover letter addressed to the President of the Senate conveying the response.
- Please provide three hard copies to Senate sub-programming office (room SG 105 outside of the government entrance to the Senate chamber) on sitting days, or the Senate Table Office (SG 25) on non-sitting days. Please also send a single PDF (which should include the letter to the President from the minister, and any attachments related to that order) to the Senate Table Office at table.docs@aph.gov.au. If the file size is too large to send via email, contact the Senate Table Office via email to make alternative arrangements. In addition, as a matter of courtesy, one copy should be delivered to the requesting Senators office.
- Please provide an electronic copy to the Senate Parliamentary Liaison Officer to ensure we are aware the order has been responded to.

Please ensure you consult with Senator Wong's office [s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@aph.gov.au](mailto:table.docs@aph.gov.au) regarding responding to the Order.

Attached is a one page information sheet on Orders for the Production of Documents, but please contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards

[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Adviser | Assistant Parliamentary Liaison Officer to the Senate
Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet
SG89 Parliament House, Canberra

s22(1)(a)(ii)

e (general). SenatePLO@pmc.gov.au e (tabling). Tabling@pmc.gov.au

I work irregular hours due to the nature of my role. If you receive emails out of hours, you are not expected to respond until normal business hours.



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



From: Senate Parliamentary Liaison Office <SenatePLO@pmc.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 23 July 2025 2:51 PM

To: tabling@infrastructure.gov.au; s22(1)(a)(ii) @mo.infrastructure.gov.au'

s22(1)(a)(ii) @mo.infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @MO.infrastructure.gov.au'

s22(1)(a)(ii) @MO.infrastructure.gov.au>; 'dlo.cking@infrastructure.gov.au'

<dlo.cking@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)@ia.pm.gov.au' s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au>;

s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au' s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au' s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au>;

s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au' s22(1)(a)(ii) @ia.pm.gov.au>

Cc: Senate Parliamentary Liaison Office <SenatePLO@pmc.gov.au>; 'Whip, Chief Labor (SEN)'

<ChiefLaborWhip.Senate@aph.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) External Contact) s22(1)(a)(ii) @aph.gov.au>;

s22(1)(a)(ii) (Sen T. Sheldon' s22(1)(a)(ii) @aph.gov.au>; PMO - Parliament

<Parliament@pm.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @finance.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii) @finance.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @pm.gov.au>; 's22(1)(a)(ii) (Sen P.

Wong)' s22(1)(a)(ii) @aph.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @finance.gov.au' s22(1)(a)(ii) @finance.gov.au>

Subject: Heads Up - Order for the Production of Documents - New England Highway [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good evening

Please note: this motion has **NOT** been considered by the Senate yet. It may not get agreed to, this email is to provide you with a heads up.

Please see the attached motion requiring the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (Senator McCarthy) to table documents relating to a westbound overpass on the New England Highway at Maitland Station. This motion will be moved by Senator Kovacic today – the Senate has **not yet considered the motion.**

If agreed by the Senate:

- The Senator's office will receive a letter from the Clerk of the Senate outlining the order agreed by the Senate. The Senator would be required to provide the specified documents by **no later than 12pm 25 August 2025.**
- Once the documents have been gathered and approved by the Senator for tabling, they should be accompanied by a letter to the President of the Senate (Senator the Honourable Sue Lines), indicating that the documents are the Senator's response to the Order for the Production of Documents. Alternatively, the Senator can write to the President of the Senate outlining their reasons for not being in a position to comply with the order.
- Where the documents are being requested of a Senate minister in their capacity representing a House of Representatives minister, it is the House of Representatives minister's responsibility for compiling the documents, but the Senate minister's responsibility to respond to the order. In these circumstances, the House of Representatives minister should write to the Senate minister, outlining the response or reasons for non-compliance, and the Senate minister should write a cover letter addressed to the President of the Senate conveying the response.

- Please provide three hard copies to Senate sub-programming office (room SG 105 outside of the government entrance to the Senate chamber) on sitting days, or the Senate Table Office (SG 25) on non-sitting days. Please also send a single PDF (which should include the letter to the President from the minister, and any attachments related to that order) to the Senate Table Office at table.docs@aph.gov.au. If the file size is too large to send via email, contact the Senate Table Office via email to make alternative arrangements. In addition, as a matter of courtesy, one copy should be delivered to the requesting Senators office.

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Adviser | Assistant Parliamentary Liaison Officer to the Senate
Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet
SG89 Parliament House, Canberra

s22(1)(a)(ii)

e (general). SenatePLO@pmc.gov.au e (tabling). Tabling@pmc.gov.au



The Department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*** I work irregular hours due to the nature of my role. If you receive emails out of hours, you are not expected to respond until normal business hours. ***

IMPORTANT: This message, and any attachments to it, contains information that is confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional or other privilege. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not review, copy, disseminate or disclose its contents to any other party or take action in reliance of any material contained within it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the message from your computer system.



SENATOR MARIA KOVACIC
Liberal Senator for NSW

Notice of Motion – Order for the production of documents

That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, by no later than midday, 25 August 2025:

1. all briefing notes, file notes, emails, correspondence, or other records of interaction held by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (the minister) regarding a westbound overpass on the New England Highway at Maitland Station;
2. all briefing notes, file notes, emails, correspondence, or other records of interaction held by the Minister's office regarding a westbound overpass on the New England Highway at Maitland Station; and
3. all briefing notes, file notes, emails, correspondence, or other records of interaction held by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts regarding a westbound overpass at on the New England Highway at Maitland Station.

Senator Maria Kovacic
Tuesday, 22 July 2025

LODGED

15

18

Senate - Orders for the Production of Documents (OPDs)

What is an OPD	- The Senate may make an order for the Government to table specified information/documents at or by a particular time on a particular day. - An order can be made as a 'one off' request for documents or may be a permanent order, known as an 'order of continuing effect' (where there may be annual or biannual deadlines). - These orders are known as Orders for the Production of Documents (OPDs) or 'an order for returns' and are a common means by which senators seek information. - Responses to OPDs are sometimes referred to as 'returns to order'.
Authority	Senate Standing Order 164
Request for an OPD	- A notice of motion will be lodged and moved by a senator, and determined during 'Discovery of Formal Business' on any sitting day, ie after Question Time on Mondays to Wednesdays or before Question Time on Thursdays. - If agreed, the Clerk will write to the Leader of the Government in the Senate and the relevant Minister in the Senate to inform them of the Order. - The Senate PLO will also advise the Minister's office (by email) as soon as the motion is agreed in the Chamber to ensure as much notice as possible is given.
Responding to an OPD	- Decisions about the release of documents are up to the relevant Minister/s. There has been general acceptance by the Senate that there is some information held by the Government which ought not to be disclosed, but consideration should be given to past practice and the sanctions the Senate is able to impose. - There are two options: - Comply in full - Partial or nil response - Ministers must then outline the reason/s for non-compliance and any claims for public interest immunity. - Where the Minister is a House Minister, the response must be from the Minister representing the Minister in the Senate. - Where an OPD impacts on a number of portfolios, one Minister's office must coordinate a whole of government response. It is then essential that the response is cleared by all Ministers affected. - Responses should be unclassified as they will be tabled in the chamber and available on the APH website.
Lodgement and copy requirements	- Three copies of the response should be delivered to the Senate Table Office in SG105 (adjacent to the Government entrance to the Senate Chamber) on sitting days, or in S1 108 on non-sitting days, by the time agreed by the Senate. In addition, as a matter of courtesy, one copy should be delivered to the Senator who moved the motion (specified in the email from the Senate PLO). - A single PDF (which should include the letter to the President from the minister, and any attachments related to that order) must be sent to the Senate Table Office at table.docs@aph.gov.au. - Where the documents are to be provided to a Senate Committee, one copy should be provided to the Committee Secretary (either hard copy or electronic) – contact details are on committee websites.
Possible sanctions for non-compliance with an OPD	- If a minister does not comply or provide a satisfactory response within 30 days of the deadline, a senator may after Question Time ask the relevant minister for an explanation and may move to take note of the explanation or move a motion in relation to the minister's failure to provide an answer or satisfactory explanation. - Possible sanctions for non-compliance by a Minister include: - a censure motion against the Minister - a ban on legislation from the Minister's portfolio for a period - establishment of a Senate select committee to inquire into and report on matters related to an OPD - a resolution of contempt of the Senate with penalties applied in accordance with the <i>Parliamentary Privileges Act 1987</i>.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 28 March 2025 1:39 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii); Lloyd, Maggie; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Infra spreadsheets [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

FYI – have saved the latest version of the IIP spreadsheets in s22(1)(a)(ii) including:

- s22(1)(a)(ii)
- IIP and pipeline summary
- Share of the IIP per state since 2021-22 Budget

s22(1)(a)(ii) On Monday, we will add them to the Program of Works and s22(1)(a)(ii)

State	Project name	Regional Status	Total Cost (\$m)	AGC (\$m)	State (\$m)
s22(1)(a)(ii)					
NSW	Westbound Overpass at Maitland Station	Regional	100.0	100.0	0.0
s22(1)(a)(ii)					

State	Project name	Regional Status	Existing AG (\$m)	Additional AG (\$m)	Revised AG (\$m)
s22(1)(a)(ii)					

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Saturday, 29 March 2025 9:11 AM
To: Lloyd, Maggie
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: s22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 s22(1)(a)(ii)
 s22(1)(a)(ii) NSW - Westbound Overpass at the Maitland Roundabout in Maitland (1).docx; s22(1)(a)(ii)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OFFICIAL

Fact sheets attached.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 28 March 2025 5:50 PM
To: Lloyd, Maggie <Maggie.Lloyd@MO.Infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: s22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Maggie,

See below as discussed.

We are getting all of these as fact sheets from Dept. soon, but they are still being finalised. We will have the full set by first thing in the morning I am assured.

New projects

State	Project name	Total Cost (\$m)	AGC (\$m)	State (\$m)	Funding Split	Description
s22(1)(a)(ii)						

s22(1)(a)(ii)

NSW	Westbound Overpass at Maitland Station	100.0	100.0	0.0	100:00	This project will deliver a westbound flyover overpass at the Cessnock Road New England Highway intersection (near Maitland Railway Station), complimenting the existing eastbound flyover. The project will ease traffic congestion and flow on the New England Highway with significant safety and productivity improvements for road users. The overpass was identified as a priority through the NSW Government's Cessnock Road corridor study.
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s22(1)(a)(ii)

State	Project name	Existing AG (\$m)	Additional AG (\$m)	Revised AG (\$m)	Description
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s22(1)(a)(ii)



s22(1)(a)(ii)

Senior Advisor • Infrastructure
Office of the Hon Catherine King MP

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Suite MG.46, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

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Australian Government

BUILDING AUSTRALIA



New South Wales

Westbound Overpass at the Maitland Roundabout in Maitland

Infrastructure Investment Program



Connecting Australians | Enriching Communities | Empowering Regions
Supporting Priority Land Transport Infrastructure Projects

Project Scope

The project will deliver a westbound flyover overpass at the Cessnock Road / New England Highway intersection (near Maitland Railway Station), complementing the existing eastbound flyover.

Funding

Total Commitment: \$100 million

Australian Government Commitment: \$100 million

Benefits

The project will ease traffic congestion and improve traffic flows on the New England Highway, enhancing safety and improving the efficiency of the road network for all road users.

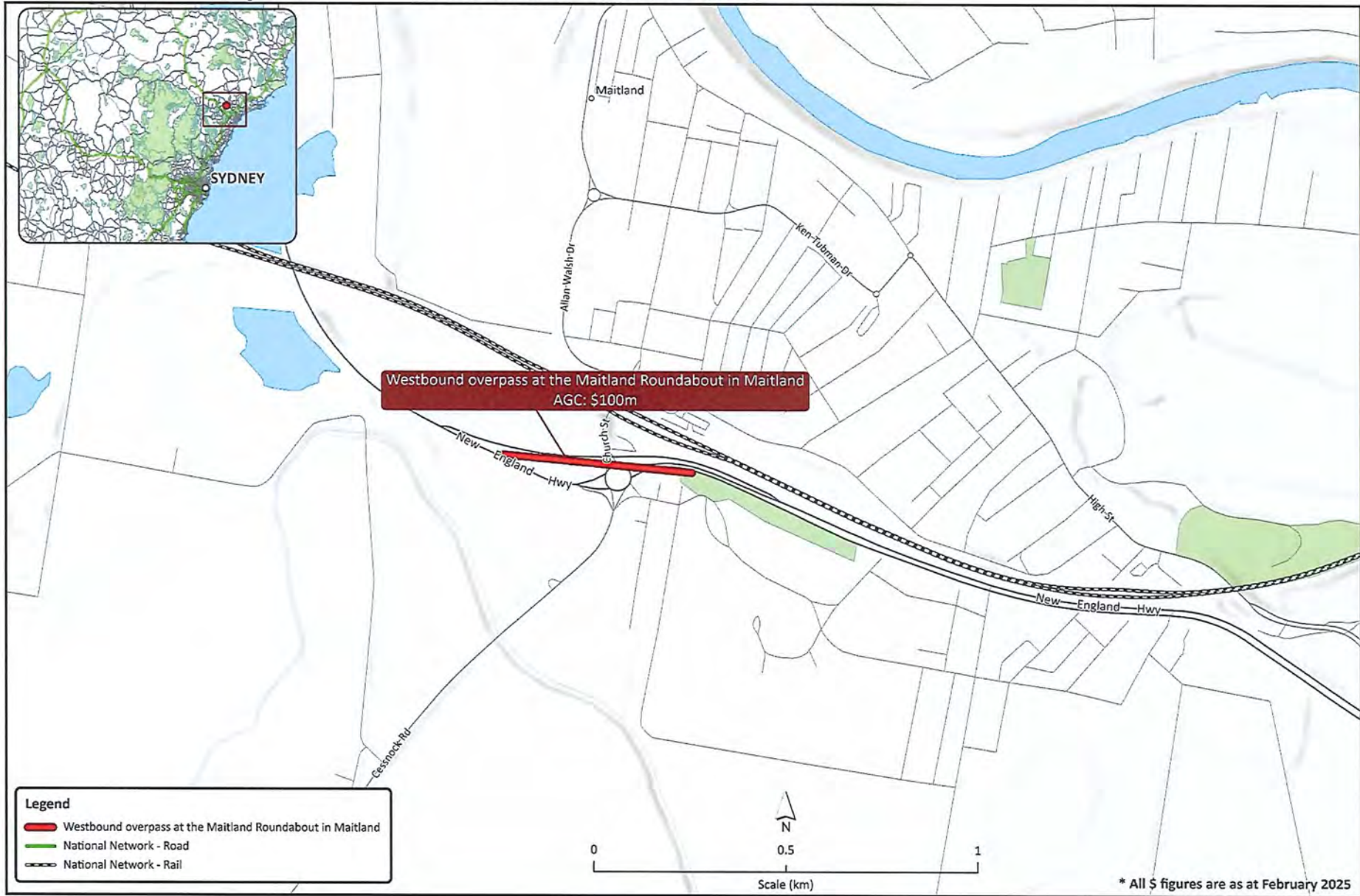
Delivery Timeframes

Delivery timeframes will be determined in consultation with the New South Wales Government.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Westbound overpass at the Maitland Roundabout in Maitland

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts



s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 4 April 2025 11:29 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Maitland Westbound roundabout [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

This is really strong. Nice work, and no notes.

s22

OFFICIAL

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)@mo.infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 April 2025 10:17 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)@MO.infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)@mo.infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii)@mo.infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: Maitland Westbound roundabout [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Maitland Westbound roundabout s22(1)(a)(ii)

Note; no TfNSW page for this one, so pulled together with ideas from s22(1)(a)(ii) in the JA MO.

Cheers,

s22(1)(a)(ii).

Media & Digital Advisor

Office of the Hon Catherine King MP

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Member for Ballarat

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Follow Catherine on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 4 April 2025 2:20 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Maitland Westbound roundabout [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Cleared. s22(1)(a)(ii), so have a look where I have commended.

Joel

OFFICIAL

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)@mo.infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 April 2025 1:00 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)@mo.infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)@mo.infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)@mo.infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)@mo.infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)@mo.infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Maitland Westbound roundabout [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Im jumping in the car s22(1)(a)(ii) I can you please take a quick look as I have added in M1 projects.

Not sure if we want to add total funding for M1 or call out anything else.

Once s22(1)(a)(ii) happy, good to go back to NSW.

s22(1)(a)(ii) (C. King, MP)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii) C. King, MP
Sent: Saturday, 5 April 2025 3:57 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii) M. Swanson, MP; s22(1)(a)(ii) M. Swanson, MP
Subject: Minister King Visit - Monday 7 April
Attachments: Maitland Roundabout.pdf; The Bucketts Way.pdf

Good afternoon s22(1)(a)(ii)

See attached event briefs for Monday's press conference and socials visit.

The first brief includes embargoed talking points on the announcements.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Program Manager to the Hon Catherine King MP
 Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
 s22(1)(a)(ii)

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s22(1)(a)(ii) I (C. King, MP)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii) (M. Swanson, MP)
Sent: Saturday, 5 April 2025 11:28 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii) (C. King, MP)
Subject: Meryl Swanson Quotes

"I am delighted to be here today with the Minister for Roads & Infrastructure, the Hon Catherine King, with an announcement of \$112 million investment into some of the key roads in the Paterson electorate.

This upgrade is vital for our growing communities. It will improve safety, reduce congestion, and make travel easier for families and businesses. It's about delivering real outcomes, not just promises.

The western overpass upgrade will be a game-changer for daily commuters. It's time to finish what was left incomplete and give Maitland the infrastructure it deserves. We're proud to get it done for our community.

"I've been listening to the concerns of Port Stephens residents about the need for upgrades to Medowie Rd & Bucketts Way intersections, which is why I am so pleased that we have secured \$12 million to get the preliminary project planning underway.

I recognise that these are key intersections for the safe travel of local residents, businesses, and tourists and that they are essential in maintaining vital links between industries such as defence, manufacturing, and our local community.

I'm confident these improvements will make a significant difference, not just for locals, but also for the tourists who visit our region."

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)

Office of Meryl Swanson MP
 Federal Member for Paterson
 Ph: 02 4983 2401 | E: Meryl.Swanson.MP@aph.gov.au
 35 Sturgeon St (PO Box 156) Raymond Terrace NSW 2324
 W: merylswanson.com.au



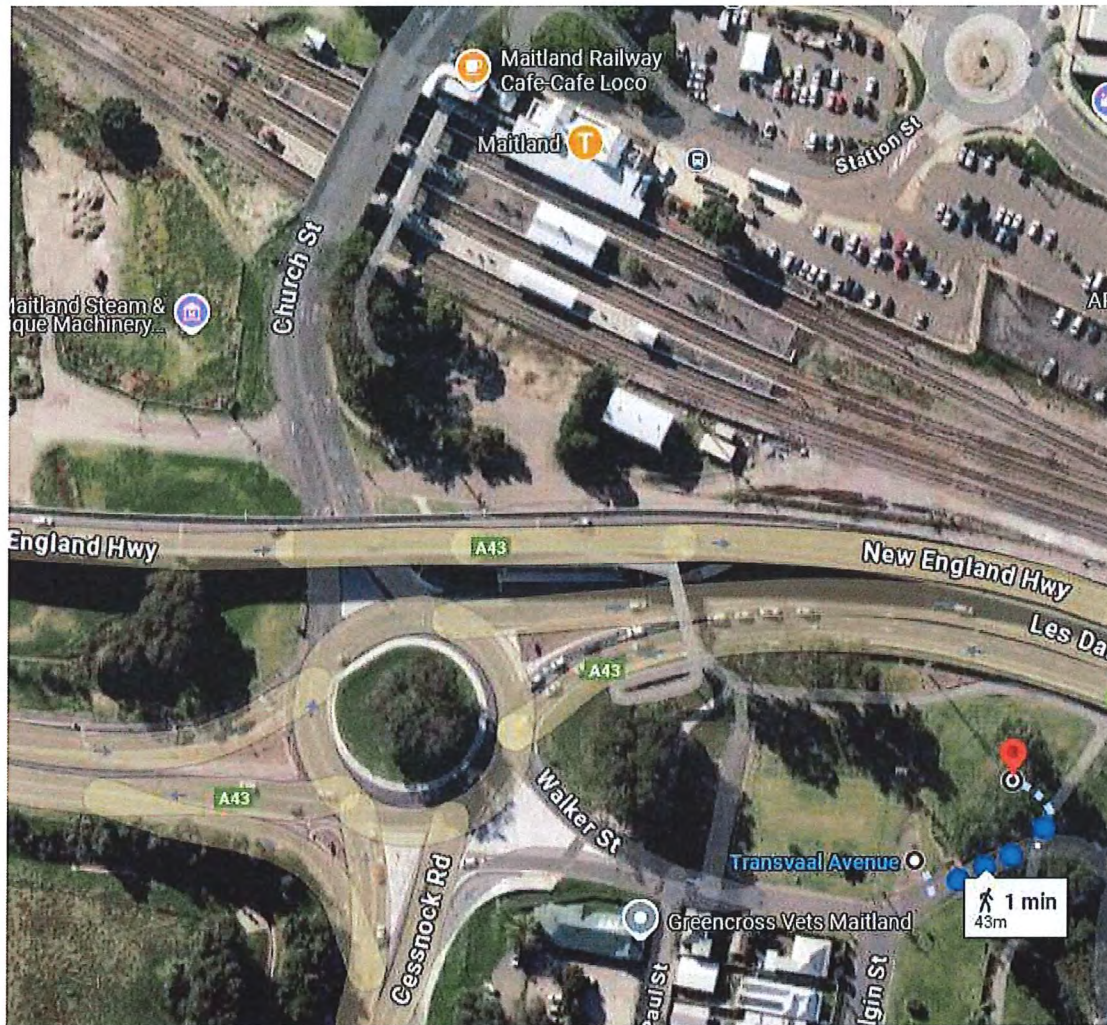
EVENT BRIEF***Westbound Overpass at the Maitland Roundabout*****Timing:** 9am Monday 7 April**Electorate:** Paterson**Location:** 8 Walker St, Maitland NSW 2320**Parking:** Gravel carpark at corner of Walker and Elgin St, before entrance to ANZAC Cenotaph**Contacts:** s22(1)(a)(ii) Meryl's CoS s22(1)(a)(ii)
s22(1)(a)(ii), Catherine's office s22(1)(a)(ii)**Media:** Press conference**Attire:** Business casual (no PPE)**Attendees:**

- Catherine King, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
- Meryl Swanson, Member for Paterson

Runsheets:

Time	What
9 am	Arrive, briefing with local members
9:05 am	Remarks to media
9:15 am	Questions
9:30 am	Photo opportunity and b-roll footage
9:45 am	Depart

Detailed Event Location:



Media location under trees with existing eastbound flyover in background:



s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: POTTICARY, Lok
Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 6:19 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Hall, Jessica; BOURNE, Andrew; s22(1)(a)(ii)
 DLO CKing
Subject: MS25-002482 - OPD - NSW Westbound Overpass at the Maitland Highway
 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Attachment A - Minister King to Minister McCarthy - OPD 14.docx; Attachment A - Minister McCarthy to Senate President- OPD 14.docx; Attachment B - OPD 14 - New England Highway - letter to McCarthy.pdf; Attachment B - OPD 14 - New England Highway - letter to leader.pdf; MS25-002482.docx; Attachment C - NSW - Westbound Overpass at the Maitland Roundabout in Maitland.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s22(1)

As discussed this afternoon, attached is a short brief and associated draft letters for the Senate order to produce documents related to the NSW Westbound Overpass at the Maitland Highway project. This is also coming through in PDMS, but I'm sending an offline copy given the time constraints.

Please note that the letter is drafted on the basis that the fact sheet will be tabled, hence the 'partial' public interest immunity claim. If no documents are tabled, that wording will need to be revised.

I'm happy to discuss any issues.

Cheers, Lok

Lok Potticary

Assistant Secretary • NSW and ACT Infrastructure Investment

Land Transport Infrastructure Division

lok.potticary@infrastructure.gov.au

s22(1)(a)(ii)

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
 CONNECTING AUSTRALIANS • ENRICHING COMMUNITIES • EMPOWERING REGIONS

infrastructure.gov.au



*I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.
 I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.
 I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.*

OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 11 August 2025 12:12 PM
To: s22(1)(a) @aph.gov.au; s22(1)(a)(ii) @aph.gov.au
Subject: Paterson infra queries [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

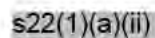
Hi s22(1)(a)(ii),

Following up on the queries you discussed with me during sitting. In no particular order:

s22(1)(a)(ii)

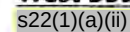


s22(1)(a)(ii)



West Bound Maitland Update

s22(1)(a)(ii)

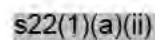


The project is 100% Commonwealth funded with \$100 million committed.

The scope is as follows:

This project will deliver a westbound flyover overpass at the Cessnock Road New England Highway intersection (near Maitland Railway Station), complementing the existing eastbound flyover. The project will ease traffic congestion and flow on the New England Highway with significant safety and productivity improvements for road users.

s22(1)(a)(ii)



s22(1)(a)(ii)



s22(1)(a)(ii)



Apologies for not coming back to you sooner – s22(1)(a)(ii) Let me know if you ever need anything else.

Regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Senior Advisor - Infrastructure

Office of the Hon Catherine King MP

s22(1)(a) @mo.infrastructure.gov.au

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Suite MG.46, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 12:58 PM
To: s22(1)(a)@aph.gov.au; s22(1)(a)(ii)@aph.gov.au
Subject: RE: Paterson infra queries [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s22(

Some additional information on Maitland overpass:

- The project is 100% funded by the Australian Government with \$100m committed to the project at the 2025-26 Budget.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

[This project update](#) from July 2025 shows that the project is at the 'scoping and investigation' stage. It states that 'Transport will continue early investigations and planning to develop a proposed option for community consultation over the next 12 to 18 months.'

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Senior Advisor - Infrastructure
 Office of the Hon Catherine King MP
[s22\(1\)\(a\)@mo.infrastructure.gov.au](#)
 s22(1)(a)(ii);

Suite MG.46, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 12:46 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Project update: Westbound Maitland Overpass [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s22(

We met with TfNSW about this project recently.

- The project is 100% funded by the Australian Government with \$100m committed to the project at the 2025-26 Budget.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

[This project update](#) from July 2025 shows that the project is at the 'scoping and investigation' stage. It states that 'Transport will continue early investigations and planning to develop a proposed option for community consultation over the next 12 to 18 months.'

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Cheers, Lok

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: s22(1)(a)(ii), [REDACTED]@mo.infrastructure.gov.au>
 Sent: Monday, 11 August 2025 12:07 PM
 To: POTTICARY, Lok <Lok.Potticary@infrastructure.gov.au>
 Subject: Project update: Westbound Maitland Overpass [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi Lok,

Could I please get an update on the West Maitland Overpass, specifically any delivery timelines NSW may have provided.

s22(1)(a)(ii), [REDACTED]

(1)

(a)

(ii) [REDACTED]

Senior Advisor • Infrastructure

Office of the Hon Catherine King MP

s22(1)(a)(ii), [REDACTED]@mo.infrastructure.gov.au

s22(1)(a)(ii), [REDACTED]

Suite MG.46, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

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