

# **REDUCING PRESSURE ON OUR ROADS**

## **AN INTEGRATED NORTHERN BEACHES TRANSPORT ACTION PLAN**

The NSW Liberal/Nationals Coalition has developed a strong and clear plan to reduce pressure on gridlocked roads from the Northern Beaches to the Harbour Bridge.

Our \$186 million Northern Beaches Transport Action Plan involves initiatives to boost public transport and upgrade key road interchanges to ease congestion and improve traveling times.

It acknowledges the community demand for more environmentally sustainable solutions yet addresses the need to upgrade long-neglected, critical road interchanges to deal with blockage points.

The eight-year plan will encompass work in stages, with local oversight groups including community and elected representatives as well as traffic and transport experts, monitoring the impact of changes and considering future directions.

The plan addresses the multiple needs of people living in the region.

This includes the desire by commuters from the northern beaches to 'get there faster and less stressed', and the plea from north shore residents and retailers to reduce the stream of cars along Spit and Military Roads that create a 'Berlin wall' effect which divides the community.

Our plan will provide a solution for this traffic corridor, which takes into account the different needs and desires of communities along the route.

In contrast to Labor, our approach will be inclusive, address the most critical problems, and use resources in a way that will achieve best outcomes.

After twelve years of Labor failure, real work to fix the transport problems of the Northern Beaches will begin with a change of government in NSW.

## **IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

The NSW Liberal/Nationals Coalition has already committed to freeze public transport fares for our first four-year term to help encourage more people back onto public transport.

In addition we will also implement a range of local initiatives in the Northern Beaches transport corridor to make bus and ferry transport an easier, more attractive, reliable, affordable, and faster means of travel.

### **Better Bus Services**

- Allocate 60 planned replacement Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses to the Brookvale Bus Depot to service the Northern Beaches/Pittwater Peninsula. We will also upgrade the Brookvale Bus Depot to ensure it can cater for the new environmentally friendly CNG buses.
- Commit \$25 million towards the construction of a 400 carspace capacity 'Park and Ride' station at Brookvale Bus Depot to encourage motorists to leave their cars behind. The new 'Park and Ride' station will also include secure storage capacity for 100 bicycles.
- Provide additional bus services following Labor's cuts in August 2006, and introduce 10 new express bus services from Brookvale to Wynyard for 'Park and Ride' users.
- Ensure that ticket pricing 'sections' correspond with Park and Ride facilities at Brookvale and Warriewood to give commuters an incentive to use these 'Park and Ride' stations.
- Provide integrated ticketing options that give discounts for park-passengers and links between transport modes.
- Pilot the introduction of 'Smart Stop' bus stop technology that enables commuters to see at a glance when the next bus is due, where it is heading and what connections are available. We will install this technology in up to 200 key bus stops along three Sydney bus corridors, including along the Northern Beaches bus corridor.
- Construct bus bays in places that will not have a negative effect on businesses along the route – ruling out extended clearways.

### **Better Ferry Services**

- Purchase an additional Manly Ferry to significantly increase the frequency of services between Manly and Circular Quay from the current 30 minute intervals.
- Purchase two additional fast ferries following a worldwide search for an alternative to the unreliable Jetcat service.
- Provide additional ferry services following Labor's cuts, including weekend and night ferries from Manly, Mosman, Cremorne, Neutral Bay, Kirribilli and McMahons Point.

## **UPGRADING KEY ROADS AND INTERCHANGES**

In addition to our initiatives to improve public transport on the Northern Beaches we will also upgrade key roads and interchanges on the Northern Beaches road network to ease congestion and improve travel times for both cars and buses.

Specifically we will:

- Immediately halt plans to widen Spit Bridge. Labor's proposal to widen the Spit Bridge is widely opposed and will only dump traffic congestion elsewhere.
- Start construction of a flyover/underpass at the intersection of Wakehurst Parkway and Warringah Road to enhance the Roseville corridor.
- Commence the upgrade of Mona Vale Road to a dual carriageway between Terrey Hills and Mona Vale.
- Begin planning and construction of the flyover/underpass at the intersection of Sydney Road and Burnt Bridge Creek deviation.
- Begin planning and construction of the upgrade to the Wakehurst Parkway so that it is completed in time for the opening of the new Northern Beaches Hospital in Frenchs Forest.

### **Involving the Community in the Spit Bridge/Military Road Solution**

Within 100 days of the election we will establish an oversight group comprising traffic and transport experts, elected representatives and community members to consider expressions of interest from the private sector to provide alternatives to the community to solve the Spit and Military Road gridlock.

Potential solutions will have to take into account the expected impact of the initiatives outlined in our Northern Beaches Transport Action Plan. Potential solutions will also be required to meet four key criteria:

1. Proposals must lead to a reduction in public transport travel times
2. Proposals must lead to a reduction in traffic congestion
3. Proposals must be able to garner broad-based community support
4. Proposals must not include any attempt to funnel traffic.

## **COSTING AND FUNDING**

	<b>2007/08 \$M</b>	<b>2008/09 \$M</b>	<b>2009/10 \$M</b>	<b>2010/11 \$M</b>	<b>TOTAL \$M</b>
Additional Manly Ferry	12.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	<b>13</b>
Additional Fast Ferries			10	10	<b>20</b>
Integrated Park and Ride ticketing	1				<b>1</b>
Brookvale Park and Ride Depot	5	10	10		<b>25</b>
Brookvale Depot CNG upgrade	5				<b>5</b>
Fast track smart bus stops	1	1	1		<b>3</b>
Bus Bays	2	2			<b>4</b>
Wakehurst Parkway/Warringah Road flyover	10	10	10		<b>30</b>
Upgrade of Mona Vale Road	5	15	30		<b>50</b>
Sydney Road/Burnt Bridge Creek flyover	2	3	5	10	<b>20</b>
Upgrade Wakehurst Parkway	2	3	5	5	<b>15</b>

Funding for the upgrading of key roads and intersections will be partially offset by estimated savings of \$50 million related to the cancellation of Labor's proposed Spit Bridge widening.