



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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Murrurundi Rail Tunnel bottleneck to be eased

The rail bottleneck through the Liverpool Range near Murrurundi is going to be fixed as part of the infrastructure funding announced by the Prime Minister today.

The announcement of \$290m for the realignment of the rail line across the Liverpool Range has brought praise from long-time supporter of the project, the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

The Hunter North West corridor is the major recipient of the rail funding with \$580m of a total \$1.2B to be spent in that corridor.

“The \$290m in funding for the Liverpool Range realignment is great news for the New England North West of NSW and down through the Hunter Valley to the Port of Newcastle.

Over the years, representatives from the two ends of the line have met to jointly push for the upgrade seeing the benefit to all concerned.

It has long been the hold up for the development of the Gunnedah basin coalfields as well as being a restriction on the Port of Newcastle.

With work scheduled to be completed in 2011, it will have a fairly short time to show the flow on benefits to both regions.

I commend the Government on their recognition of the need for the realignment and say thank you.

There will be many smiles on the faces of those who have persevered in seeking this and without naming them all, I would like to say thank you to them too.

It's a great day and will be an even better day when the project is complete,” Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868