PROBLEM DESCRIPTION
The M1 Pacific Motorway and Pacific Highway connect Sydney to Brisbane, Newcastle, the Hunter Valley and northern New South Wales, and are major contributors to Australia’s economy. The Australian and NSW governments have been jointly upgrading the Pacific Highway to provide a four lane divided road from Hexham, near Newcastle, to the Queensland border since 1996.

The project will deliver a 15 kilometre dual carriageway extension of the M1 Pacific Motorway, connecting the motorway at Black Hill to the Pacific Highway at Raymond Terrace. The works include a 2.6 kilometre bridge over the New England Highway and Hunter River, and upgrades to the surrounding network. The project will improve safety, travel time reliability, access to employment hubs, freight efficiency and flood immunity. This project has been listed as a priority initiative by Infrastructure Australia.

This project is expected to be funded on an 80:20 basis with the New South Wales Government and will support approximately 3,000 direct and indirect jobs during construction.

PROJECT BENEFITS
- Improve road safety and reduce congestion for all road users.
- Improve freight efficiency, network reliability and travel time.
- Improve connectivity for people to jobs and services, and goods to markets.