**PROBLEM DESCRIPTION**

The Newell Highway is a critical link in Australia’s freight transport network. It contributes to the competitiveness of Australia’s agricultural and mining sectors by opening up access to essential freight networks in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. Upgrade of the Newell Highway has been listed as a priority initiative by Infrastructure Australia.

Addressing identified pinch points along the Newell Highway will improve throughput, while targeted upgrades are expected to increase access for higher efficiency freight vehicles, leading to an overall increase in the efficiency of this significant freight route. These upgrades are also expected to increase safety for all road users.

This investment will upgrade priority sections of the Newell Highway in New South Wales to improve road safety and enhance productivity. Future projects will address the efficient movement of regional freight, challenges such as road safety and flooding, and the relationship between the Newell Highway and Inland Rail. The project is expected to be funded on an 80:20 basis with the New South Wales Government.

Funding for the Newell Highway upgrades under the Infrastructure Investment Program is complemented by the Australian Government’s commitment of an additional $300 million for the Toowoomba to Seymour corridor under the Roads of Strategic Importance initiative.

**PROJECT BENEFITS**

- Improve travel times and safety for all road users.
- Increase transport infrastructure capacity.
- Improve freight productivity and alleviate traffic pressure on existing road network.
- Reduce congestion and improved road safety and freight efficiency.