



COALITION RESPONSE ON BARTON HIGHWAY

Angus Taylor, the Liberal Candidate for Hume, has said that the coalition has not in any way shape or form dropped its commitment to the Barton Highway. Mr Taylor said:

"In the 2007 and 2010 elections, the coalition clearly committed \$263 million to the Barton Highway for the first phase of the two phase construction period. However, the coalition has been in opposition since that period, so no progress has been made since 2007.

"I am acutely aware of the problem. I was doorknocking in Murrumbateman last Thursday. The Barton Highway, along with education concerns, was the biggest issue raised by Murrumbateman residents last week. However, I did not need to go doorknocking to discover this. I have been hearing this from Yass district residents for a year. And, unlike the other announced candidates in the Hume Campaign I grew up in this region. I have watched the congestion on the Barton Highway get worse over my lifetime – although I am fortunate that I do not often travel on it during peak hour. It is no surprise to me that the NRMA has listed the Barton Highway as one of the worst roads in the State, and the congestion is chronic and getting worse.

"The Barton Highway duplication is not in the "Real Solutions" document because that document does not contain all of the coalition's infrastructure commitments by any stretch of the imagination. The Real Solutions is nowhere near complete. It refers to a handful of mostly billion dollar plus infrastructure projects around the country, most of which involve co-funding from State governments. These are projects of a different scale to the Barton Highway, and no one reading that list with any sense of context and knowledge of public infrastructure policy would expect the Barton Highway to be on that list. The coalition's infrastructure commitments are still being worked on by detailed cost benefit analyses of all of its potential infrastructure projects around the country.

“I am working very hard with Alby Schultz - who has obtained Barton Highway commitments from the coalition in the past - to secure the same commitment. We will do that work responsibly and carefully. Now is the time for serious work to be done in securing the Barton Highway commitment, not fanfare. That is what I am doing. We will make announcements on specific commitments closer to the election.”

Please contact Angus Taylor on 0413 963 113 for further information.