



TAYLOR SUPPORTS YASS COUNCIL PETITION AND WORK PROGRAM ON BARTON HIGHWAY

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Angus Taylor, the Liberal Candidate for Hume, has called on people in the Yass and surrounding regions to sign a Council petition calling for the Barton Highway upgrade. In parallel he has begun a work on a submission to Infrastructure Australia, the federal infrastructure body.

Mr Taylor said:

"There is no need for a petition to convince me that the Yass community is well and truly sick of inaction on the Barton Highway. I have been driving the Barton all my life, and I have been listening to Yass residents as a candidate for over a year now. However, I am delighted that the Yass Council has taken the initiative to launch a petition. This will help to make a more compelling case for urgent investment in the Barton Highway.

"The more signatures we can get on the Council petition, the better. This will only help me with the case I am making to senior ministers in the coalition, and to the work I am currently doing on the Barton Highway."

Mr Taylor said that he had been working on the Barton Highway for six months.

Mr Taylor said that those who watched developments closely would recall that for a number of years between 2002 and 2007 there were community consultations about the preferred route around Murrumbateman. Mr Taylor said that it was in 2007 that the preferred route was largely resolved.

Mr Taylor said:

"This resolution paved the way for further significant investment, which was committed by the coalition prior to the 2007 federal election.

"Since that time, little has been done that is on the public record. There is no detailed feasibility study, there is only out-dated traffic data, no cost benefit study, and no serious prioritisation work done with Infrastructure Australia or Infrastructure NSW. As I worked this over the last six months, I was appalled at how little has been done.

“This was primarily the job of federal Labor, and it has not done its job. With a budget that is now \$250 billion worse off than when Labor came in to government, the road could have been duplicated 500 times. Yet the basic work has not been done.

“The good news is that I have started doing this work. I have personal experience and expertise in putting together feasibility studies and cost benefit analyses for infrastructure projects, and I began collecting data on the Barton Highway many months ago. I recently asked the Mayor I to help me with traffic data, and Council has been very obliging and has started work on that.

“The other good news is that a coalition government will put responsible spending of taxpayer’s money at the top of the agenda. No more pork barrelling, and no more sectional interests. As a nation we need this more than anything.

“In my view, this is actually a good thing for users of the Barton Highway. With the right advocacy, and with a loud and engaged community on board, I believe a compelling case can be made to Infrastructure Australia, which will accelerate the timing of the Barton Highway investment.”

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