



MEDIA RELEASE – Putting Hume First –NRMA Disappointing on Barton Highway Duplication - Lib Labs Remain Silent - James Harker-Mortlock – Independent for Hume – 22nd May 2013

“It is very disappointing to see that the NRMA has failed to include the Barton Highway duplication in its Demand Better Roads campaign for the Federal Election”, said James Harker-Mortlock, independent candidate for Hume. “This is especially unhelpful after the failure of either the Liberal Party or the Labor Party to refer to the Barton Highway duplication in their budget announcements.

I contacted the NRMA about the omission of the Barton Highway duplication. I was told that the Barton Highway duplication was not considered to be in the top five priority projects for the ACT and NSW. The best the NRMA could suggest was to ask people to vote yet again in its Seeing Red on Roads survey.

It would appear that a number of the projects on the national list have not been finally planned or costed. Many projects on the national list have been announced only many years after the Barton Highway duplication. Two of the biggest projects listed for NSW are in urban areas. The national list includes three rail projects. No details appear to be available of the basis upon which the NRMA and other road associations came to select some projects ahead of others. There are no projects at all in Hume.

I would ask that those who are concerned about raising the issue of the Barton Highway make contact with the NRMA directly. The email address for the Demand Better Roads campaign is:

info@aaa.asn.au

*or call the NRMA on **13 11 22***

I note that neither the Liberal Party nor the Labor Party candidates for Hume has commented upon this omission by the NRMA nor have they offered any reason for their respective party's failure to make any commitment to fund the Barton Highway duplication.

It is clear that without a strong, independent representative arguing its case, Hume and its residents will continue to be taken for granted and ignored by the Liberal and Labor parties.”

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