Media Release

M1 Déjà vu as first sod turned on widening

It was Déjà vu on the M1 today as the first sod was turned on the expansion of the Motorway from Exit 77 at Worongary to Exit 79 at Mudgeeraba.

Member for Mudgeeraba Ros Bates, who attended as Transport Minister Scott Emerson's representative had gone through the whole thing almost six years before.

Accompanying then Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile in August 2007, Ms Bates was part of the announcement of $455m from the Howard Government which was earmarked to widen the M1 from Nerang through to Tugun.

Ms Bates welcomed the start of the road works to result in an additional two lanes on the M1 for motorists with work due to commence after Easter.

"As the 'Member for the M1', whilst the project is expected to be completed by late 2014 there will be some short term pain but long term gain for Gold Coast motorists," said Ms Bates.

"This busy section of the M1 carries 70,000 vehicles per day."

Ms Bates was joined by Federal Member for McPherson Karen Andrews MP and Labor Senator John Hogg.

Mrs Andrews also welcomed the project which has been a long time coming.

"I too will ensure that motorists in my electorate are not forgotten by the Gillard Government and given that it's an election year, I will continue to put pressure on the Labor Party to ensure funding for future upgrades of the motorway," said Mrs Andrews.

The first stage of works will involve building the new lanes in the centre median and widening the existing southbound bridges.

Once the centre median lanes are built, traffic will be moved on to the new alignment to allow the outer lanes to be built. During construction, speed will be reduced throughout the work site and motorists have been asked to follow traffic signage and take care through the area.

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