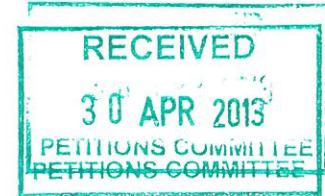




**The Hon Anthony Albanese MP**

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
Minister for Regional Development and Local Government  
Leader of the House



Reference: 01086-2013

09 APR 2013

The Hon John Murphy MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Murphy

Thank you for your letter dated 18 March 2013 about a petition for funding to complete the full duplication of the Barton Highway in NSW.

The Australian Government is committed to improving the safety and productivity of the national land transport network and is investing a record \$11.6 billion under the Nation Building Program on road and rail projects in NSW over a six year period to 2013-14.

The Government recognises the importance of the Barton Highway and its contribution to the ACT/NSW region. To date, it has committed \$36.5 million to improve safety on the Barton Highway and a further \$3.5 million to fund planning and land acquisitions to reserve a corridor for potential future duplication of the highway.

Upgrades on the Barton Highway include various measures such as widening and sealing of shoulders, improvement of vertical and horizontal alignments, construction of overtaking lanes and deceleration lanes, removal of roadside hazards, installation of safety barriers and reflective and audible road marking where appropriate to improve road safety.

Yours sincerely

ANTHONY ALBANESE