

MEDIA RELEASE

The Barton Highway: Greens committed to real Solutions.

Tamara Ryan, Greens Candidate for Eden Monaro

30th June 2016

Yass valley residents know all too well what a dangerous road the Barton Highway is. Over the 40 years since duplication was first mooted there have been scores of road fatalities and accident related injuries, yet road users are still waiting for real solutions. The danger to native animals is also a real concern.

In a announcement today, Greens Eden-Monaro candidate Tamara Ryan confirmed The Greens commitment to the full duplication of the Barton Highway and to investigating long-term public transport additions along the route.

"We need a real solution to save lives, not more band-aid fixes." Ms. Ryan said. "More and more commuters and heavy vehicles are using the Barton each year, yet under successive Labor and Coalition governments, much has been promised but we only ever see piecemeal solutions at best." Ms Ryan went on to say.

"Patchy fixes on dangerous stretches have happened but the real solution—a full duplication and the inclusion of good public transport linkages with the ACT—seem to have been repeatedly put in the too hard basket." "Particularly with the inadequate funding for the Yass hospital and requirement more most patients to travel elsewhere for medical attention, we need to ensure people can travel without further risk until further action can be taken to improve the hospital."

"The Greens National Transport Strategy places a high priority on the improvement of regional roads and we will be pushing for full duplication of the Barton Highway, including wildlife corridors, a cycleway and a badly needed regional public transport strategy for the Barton Highway corridor."

"The Greens want a fairer tax system working to raise sorely needed revenue for new projects like the Barton Highway duplication." Concluded Ms Ryan. "With more revenue Australia can afford to provide long-term solutions to make our roads safer for road users. I will be attending a street stall in Yass on Saturday the 11th on June and would love to hear peoples views on the Barton and any other issues that are important to the Yass community. I hope to see you there."

Photos **attached**.

For further information or comment contact Tamara at edenmonaro@nsw.greens.org.au or call her on 0439 444 088.