

# NSW GOVERNMENT PLEDGES \$9 MILLION FOR ALLAWAH BRIDGE WIDENING

Minister for Transport John Robertson and Kogarah MP Cherie Burton today announced the NSW Government would invest \$9 million to widen the Allawah Bridge, over the railway in Lily Street.

Ms Burton said the bridge, near Allawah railway station, was an important thoroughfare for Kogarah residents both in cars and on foot.

"I am extremely pleased the Government has committed to providing \$9 million for a new bridge," she said.

"We've campaigned locally for this for many years including community petitions and letters to the Minister.

"The current bridge is approaching the end of its life and with this pledge the Government continues to show its commitment to the renewal of important transport infrastructure."

Mr Robertson said a detailed survey and geotechnical investigation by RailCorp revealed \$9 million would fund a replacement bridge that provided for two wider traffic lanes and a footpath.

"This was one of the first projects that the Member for Kogarah raised with me when I became Minister for Trans-



port and today's announcement is a testament to her hard work advocating on behalf of local people," Mr Robertson said.

"However, Ms Burton and I believe there could be an even better outcome for the people of Kogarah if the local councils decide to come to the party.

"The Government has writ-

ten to both Hurstville and Kogarah Councils about this issue and made it clear that if the councils are prepared to make a small financial contribution to the project on top of our commitment, the bridge could be expanded to include more lanes."

The Government has undertaken cost estimates for work on an expanded scope and

found that:

- A bridge with two lanes, one left hand turn lane into Railway Pd and one footpath would cost \$11 million (including a contribution of \$1 million per council);

- A bridge with three lanes, one left hand turn lane into Railway Pd and one footpath would cost \$13 million (including a contribution of \$2 mil-

lion per council).

Ms Burton encouraged both local councils to consider contributing funds to expand the project.

"The NSW Government will contribute \$9 million for a replacement bridge and that investment is locked in - it will happen with or without the cooperation of the councils," she said.

"However we are asking the councils to follow our lead and show the community that both the state and local levels of Government can do the right thing and work together to provide better outcomes for the community."

The Government is urging both councils to commit to an option and funding arrangement so that a concept design can be developed as soon as possible.

A detailed schedule will be provided once the likely design and construction timeframes, road alignment and funding arrangements are agreed upon.

"The Government is ready to move ahead with the design work and so I implore both councils not to delay as they make their decision," Ms Burton said.

## Dangerous toys found by Fair Trading

*Fair Trading Minister Virginia Judge today said investigators had found 142 dangerous toys in shops and markets across the State and ordered 102 retailers to remove stock from shelves.*

Ms Judge today announced the results of the biggest Fair Trading annual pre-Christmas blitz yet.

"Fair Trading inspected more than half a million toys at 909 retailers in 227 towns and suburbs across the State," Ms Judge said.

"The majority of dangerous toys were detected at metropolitan discount variety stores and markets.

"I encourage people to check to ensure they have not purchased any of these toys, so

please visit the Fair Trading website which has photos and descriptions.

"People should remove any of these toys from their home immediately and return them to the place of purchase for a full refund."

Ms Judge said toys removed this year included 110 varieties for children under three years of age that presented a potentially fatal inhalation or ingestion hazard due to small parts.

- o 11 projectile toys had the potential to cause significant eye injury

- o 11 aquatic toys and flotation aids did not carry required warnings designed



- o 9 yo-yo balls had cords that present a strangulation hazard and,
- o 1 magnetic toy did not carry a warning label about the capacity of magnets to cause serious intestinal injuries if swallowed.

Ms Judge said all dangerous toys had been removed from sale and all suppliers were being investigated.

"Appropriate enforcement action will be taken once investigations are complete," she said.

Ms Judge said Fair Trading would continue to closely monitor the marketplace to ensure unsafe products remained off shelves.

"Retailers should be well aware of their product safety responsibilities and consumers should be vigilant when purchasing gifts, especially toys, this Christmas," she said.

Ms Judge offered the following tips on buying toys for children:

- Buy washable, non-breakable toys for babies.

- Read the labeling on new toys. 'Not suitable for children aged under three' means that there are small parts which could be swallowed - it is not an indication of skill level or intelligence.
- Check toys regularly for loose parts that may be choking dangers. Always read the label and any safety warnings.
- Toy chests and boxes should have a removable lid. Anything that is big enough to crawl inside must have ventilation holes, including tents. Helmets and masks must also have ventilation holes.
- Check there are no gaps or holes that could trap a child's fingers.
- Be wary of toys that make loud noises as they can be harmful to hearing.
- Check for sharp edges or rough surfaces as they can cause cuts and splinters.
- Ensure ride-on toys are appropriate to the age of the child and are stable.
- Check magnetic toys for loose magnets. If magnets are swallowed they may cause blockage of the digestive system resulting in serious injury.

For further details and photos of the toys visit: [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au)