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MEDIA RELEASE

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GREAT DIVIDING RANGE HIGHWAY COMMITMENT WELCOMED

Full-length B-Doubles would be one step closer to finally being able to cross the Great Dividing Range through a Federal Labor commitment to upgrade the route, Australian Road Train Association Chief Executive, Duncan Bremner, said today.

The \$200 million commitment made by Federal Shadow Transport Minister, Martin Ferguson, would go toward the \$450 million bypass of Mt. Victoria and River Lett Hill on the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow.

“This is a significant breakthrough in addressing one of the great transport issues in Australia – the crossing of the ‘sandstone curtain’ that is the Great Dividing Range,” Mr Bremner said.

“It is ludicrous in this day and age that freight movement west of Sydney is still so restricted due to the lack of basic infrastructure.

“The potential ability to use the latest, safest, most productive vehicles in moving freight west would also mean fewer trucks on the road due to the significantly increased load capacity of B-Doubles over single trailer trucks.”

As part of the announcement, Mr Ferguson also committed to a review of the long-term transport needs of the Central West.

“Most encouragingly, Mr Ferguson has flagged the potential for a Bell’s Line expressway,” Mr Bremner said.

“While the limitations of Bell’s Line of Road has long been another of the great frustrations for all road users alike travelling over the Great Dividing Range, it is immensely encouraging to see Mr Ferguson formally recognise the importance of addressing the route and it’s associated issues.”

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